

# Saipan Tribune

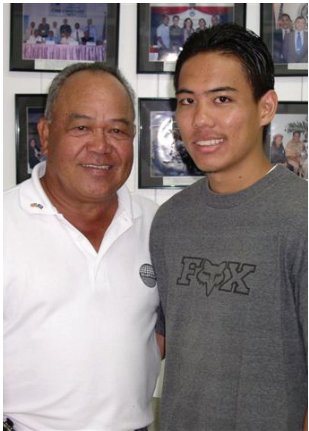
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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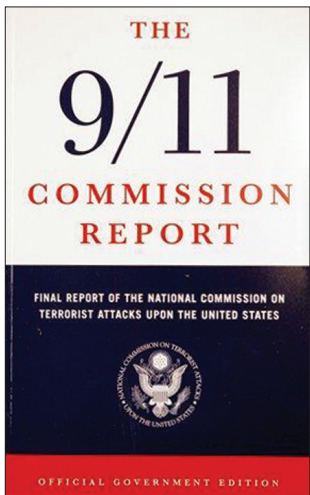
## INSIDE



### Off to the Navy

Mount Carmel School alumnus Jun Vicente Mihara Chong has been offered an appointment to attend the U.S. Naval Preparatory School in Newport, Rhode Island—an offer that he has accepted.

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### 9/11 Report

The Sept. 11 commission's final report concludes the hijackers exploited "deep institutional failings within our government" over a long period but does not blame President Bush or former President Clinton for the mistakes.

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### Buying a Laptop?

The laptop computer business is doing better than ever, but the idea of the laptop computer is getting scrambled in the process. Instead of a lightweight computer, many laptops these days weigh too much to be toted any farther than from a desk to a sofa.

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# Volcanoes put air traffic at risk

## Early warning system for future eruptions backed

BY JOHN RAVELO  
REPORTER



CASSIE DLG FEJERAN

### PEPPY KIDS

The Peppy Kids from Japan gather with several local children at the beach area of the Chamolinian Village in Garapan for their 5th Annual Cultural Exchange Program.

## SBA loans now available for Tingting victims

By JOHN RAVELO  
REPORTER

Saipan's small businesses and individuals who suffered losses due to the onslaught of Typhoon Tingting may now avail of low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Gov. Juan N. Babauta said yesterday that the SBA partially granted his request to extend assistance to the CNMI to help affected businesses and individuals



Babauta

Babauta said. The governor had asked President Bush to declare a major di-

recover from their losses. He said SBA representatives would arrive on Saipan next week to entertain loan applications.

"Farmers with damaged crops can borrow money,"

saster in the Commonwealth, but the joint preliminary damage assessment conducted by the CNMI and the Federal Emergency Management Agency determined that the islands qualify only for public assistance.

With SBA's decision on Babauta's request, individuals whose homes were damaged or destroyed by the typhoon may apply for disaster loans.

However, while Babauta also men-

See SBA on Page 12

## Physicist rethinks theory on black holes

By SHAWN POGATCHNIK  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

DUBLIN, Ireland (AP)—After 29 years of thinking about it, Stephen Hawking says he was wrong about black holes. The renowned Cambridge University physicist formally presented a paper Wednesday arguing that black holes, the celestial vortexes formed from collapsed stars, preserve traces of objects swallowed up and eventually could spit bits out "in a mangled form."

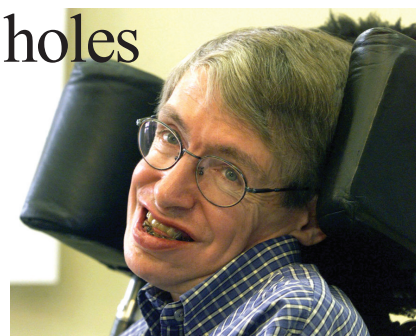
Last week, in an interview with the

British Broadcast Corp., Hawking revealed he had changed his long-held thinking on black holes.

Hawking's radical new theory caps his three-decade struggle to explain a paradox in scientific thinking: How can objects really "disappear" inside a black hole and leave no trace, as he long believed, when subatomic theory says matter can be transformed but never fully destroyed?

Hawking had previously insisted that black holes destroy all molecular finger-

See PHYSICIST on Page 12



AP

British mathematician, astrophysicist Stephen W. Hawking smiles during a news conference on the conference at the University of Potsdam, near Berlin, Germany, in this July 21, 1999 file photo.

## 36 applications for parole in '03

By AGNES E. DONATO  
REPORTER

The CNMI Board of Parole reported a 38-percent increase in the number of parole applications it received last year—from 26 in 2002 to 36 in 2003.

The board, however, said that only 22 of the 36 applications were determined eligible based on the criteria set by BOP rules and regulations. Eight were deemed ineligible while three more waived their parole rights. The three others have their applications pending at the board.

Among those deemed eligible, 15 were granted parole while seven were denied. Three remain under review by the board. In 2002, BOP granted parole to seven applicants and denied the submissions of eight others.

No paroles were revoked last year. Last year, 30 individuals on Saipan

See 36 APPLICATIONS on Page 12

Local

Immigration’s use of  
DYS facility temporary

By AGNES E. DONATO  
REPORTER

If their transfer pushes through, immigration detainees would stay at the juvenile detention facility only until the adult prison project in Susupe is complete.

Immigration director Antonio Sablan said the planned use of the Division of Youth Services correctional facility in Kagman for immigration detainees would only be temporary, given the expected completion of the adult prison in December.

“The adult prison will have space solely for immigration detainees once it’s done. We just need to use the DYS facility because it is new and more appropriately designed for detention purposes, and has more available bed spaces,” Sablan said.

As of Wednesday, there

were eight male and three female detainees at the immigration detention in As Perdido, he added.

The number of detainees is expected to increase, though, when the Division of Immigration starts arresting 154 illegally staying members of the garment class action suit, which reached a settlement last year.

The new \$5-million DYS facility, which has two buildings that can each house 22 people, has only three juvenile detainees at present.

Sablan also bared plans of subsequently shutting down the immigration facility when the detainees are transferred.

“We will use the building for alternative purposes, and then completely shut it down when our lease agreement with the property owner expires sometime next year,” he said.

The Department of Com-

munity and Cultural Affairs earlier expressed concerns about the planned transfer of immigration detainees to the DYS facility, noting the possible impact on youth offenders at the detention.

Opened in January, the juvenile correctional facility is equipped with electronic surveillance system and meeting rooms, as well as recreational areas such as craft rooms, a library and a large outdoor fenced space.

Attorney general Pamela S. Brown said the plan aims to maximize the use of available government resources.

She also assured DCCA that there would be sight and sound barriers separating the juvenile and immigration detainee populations once the plan is implemented. She said the plan would adhere to policies of the Justice Department and local laws.

diabetes  
+green

papaya

# Teacher rep supports PRAXIS testing but...

By SHAN SEMAN  
REPORTER

Teacher representative Ambrose M. Bennett expressed disappointment yesterday over the Board of Education’s decision to start requiring teachers to take the PRAXIS test—an exam required by some states as a measure of competence.

Bennett stressed that he supports the testing but added that certain scenarios “may” be raised due to the lack of consideration for teachers.

“I’m for the testing, but teachers deserve the right to have some input before a final approval,” Bennett said in a letter to the Board. “With PRAXIS testing not being a requirement under the present teacher contract, there could be some opposition to the testing being forced on teachers.”

Further, he accused the BOE of keeping him in the dark about plans to implement the policy.

“The purpose of the BOE



Bennet

teacher rep is to represent teachers, especially in matters that have the potential for their dismissal. The committee had a constitutional obligation to teachers to have their representative as part of this decision process, but I was not formally informed of it,” he said.

Bennett also questioned the timing of the implementation, saying that majority of teachers were not on island and are not aware of the policy.

“They expect the teachers to read the newspaper to find out

about this. Why couldn’t they just send out a memo to each school or wait until teachers return? Like I said earlier, I was not informed about it [and] I found out by reading the paper.”

Further, Bennett stressed that teachers may raise concerns about shouldering the cost for the testing.

“The financial burned under NCLB is on the State Boards, not teachers. It is reasonable for new employees to bear cost if they want the job. [But] present teachers deserve the respect to have formal input through their teacher rep and they also have the right to place the issue in collective bargaining,” he said in the letter.

Bennett said he learned of this during a Board meeting but that he was not given ample time to address the issue as it was “quickly passed.”

“The reason I did not object is because the teachers have the right to rehash it through collective bargaining,” he said.

Under the new requirement, more than 500 Public School System teachers will be required to take the PRAXIS test. The board has given the teachers the whole of the school year 2005-2006 to pass the exam or they will lose their jobs.

Praxis is also administered in 44 states in the U.S. mainland.

Education Commissioner Rita Inos was earlier quoted as saying that the test is meant to raise the bar for quality teachers.

## APIL bats for free trade status

The Association of Pacific Island Legislatures has adopted a resolution requesting the chief executives of member states to enter into a free trade agreement with the U.S. Department of Commerce.

APIL said such an agreement would assist Pacific island members “achieve a reasonable balance in their trade.”

“The economies of the Pacific islands have experienced much difficulties and stagnation due to the effect of natural disasters, like typhoons...and are in dire need of recovery,” states the resolution.

“At present, the Pacific is-

lands lack the resources and wherewithal to gain economic recovery and regain some semblance of economic trade balance,” it added.

The APIL, composed of lawmakers from 12 governments, urged their chief executives to immediately start a dialogue with the Commerce Department to extend free trade status to the islands.

The association, led by its president, CNMI House Vice Speaker Timothy Villagomez, recently had an assembly on Guam to discuss mutual concerns ranging from environmental protection to cultural tourism

development, among others.

The association’s lawmakers come from 12 Pacific governments such as the CNMI, Guam, American Samoa, Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, Yap, Marshall Islands, Palau, Hawaii, Nauru and Kiribati. *(John Ravelo)*

camacho

cb cruz

cars unlimited

mcdo

lottery

## COMMUNITY Briefs

### Wellness seminar at judiciary

Dr. Mozdeh Bruss, a registered dietician, and Dr. Joseph Morris from Western Michigan University will conduct a Judicial Wellness Workshop for the judiciary staff on Thursday, July 22, 2004 at 10:30am in the Supreme Court courtroom. Everyone is invited to attend.

### SNISWCD meeting set

The Saipan and Northern Islands Soil and Water Conservation District would like to inform the general public of their meeting on Aug. 5, 2004 at 1:30pm, at the Natural Resources Conservation Service Office. For more information contact the office at 234-6170.

### ADA symposiums postponed

The Developmental Disabilities Triagency Network is informing the public that the ADA Symposium for the following sessions listed below have been postponed until further notice.

Session IV – July 22-23, 2004

However, Session V (July 26, 27 and 28, 2004) and Session VI (July 30) are confirmed as scheduled. For more information, call 664-7000.

### UPAA moves raffle draw date

The University of the Philippines Alumni Association CNMI Chapter has moved the June 12 fundraising raffle draw to Aug. 14, Saturday.

Those who have not yet purchased tickets are encouraged to do so. Proceeds will go to the UPAA's "Donate a Classroom Project" in the Philippines, and will help recognize and support deserving CNMI students.

The Aug. 14 raffle drawing will be held at the POLO office, 1st Floor of Nauru Building in Susupe, 6pm.

### Torres offers free notarial services

Former congressman Stanley T. Torres, who is also a notary public, is offering free notarial services to all U.S. Army Reservists and their dependents.

Torres can be contacted through the offices of:

Rep. Heinz Hofschneider 664-6969

Rep. Jesus Attao 664-8822

Rep. David Apatang 664-8980

Or in an emergency 287-9255

### Social Security visit to Rota postponed

The Social Security representative's visit to Rota, originally scheduled for July 16, has been postponed because the Pacific Islands Aviation flight from Saipan to Rota has been cancelled. The visit will be rescheduled when reliable air service from Saipan to Rota is again available.

For more information, Rota residents can call toll free at 532-9421. The local number on Saipan is 234-6203.

### OFW health screening reset

The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, Philippine Overseas Labor Office and the OFW Advisory Council is informing the Filipino community on Saipan that the Health Screening Program this July is rescheduled for August 1, 2004, 9am, at the Ground Floor of the Nauru Building.

### NMC English placement tests

Following is the schedule of our upcoming English Placement Tests:

Thursday	July 29	Room D-1	1pm-4pm
Friday	July 30	Room D-1	5:30pm-8:30pm
Thursday	November 4	Room D-1	1pm-4pm
Friday	November 5	Room D-1	5:30pm-8:30pm

There is a \$25 fee for the English Placement Test that must be paid in advance at NMC's Finance Office (M-F, 9am-4pm). Students will not be admitted to the testing room without proof of payment-a receipt for either the placement test fee or the NMC application fee.

All students seeking a degree and/or certificate are required to take the English placement test.

### Residential, biz inspections in Kagman II village

The Division of Environmental Quality and the Bureau of Environmental Health would like to inform the residents of Kagman II village that on-site disposal system and premise compliance inspections will be conducted on residential and business facilities. The inspections have been ongoing since April 21, 2004 and will continue to be conducted every Tuesday and Wednesday.

Kagman II residents are requested to cooperate with inspectors in keeping their dog(s) on a leash, for the safety of the inspectors. Both BEH and DEQ inspectors are required to wear their respective uniforms and photo identification during all inspections.

For additional information on the OSDS inspections, contact the BEH office at 664-4870/2 or the DEQ office at 664-8500/1.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 1, 2004				
DEPARTURES				
Saipan-Rota				
6640	7:00am	7:15am	7:30am	7:45am
6641	7:15am	7:30am	7:45am	8:00am
6642	7:30am	7:45am	8:00am	8:15am
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6729	5:15am	5:30am	5:45am	6:00am
6730	5:30am	5:45am	6:00am	6:15am

DEPARTURES				
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6641	7:15am	7:30am	7:45am	8:00am
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BABY NEWS  
7/14

NIKKO

ROSE T. ADA-HOCOG

Addressing homeless youth issues worldwide

For many years, local resident Rose T. Ada-Hocog has displayed a passion to assist various community groups without expecting compensation.

Her experience and background as a volunteer earned her another challenging role after founder and president of Youth Outreach International Russell T. Hartsaw appointed her executive vice president of the organization's international affairs.

Her new position was confirmed Tuesday.

Ada-Hocog will be assisting YOI in addressing homeless youth issues around the world.

"What I'll be doing is coordinating affairs internationally, and that also deals with international volunteers. I'll be coordinating operations dealing with

promoting the program, attracting support, and raising awareness on the youth homeless issues present worldwide," she said in an interview yesterday.

Ada-Hocog said her position was gained after responding to a search for volunteers conducted by the YOI.

In a statement, Hartsaw said Ada-Hocog will liaison with international operations executive president George Okanga, assisting him in meeting needs through organizational resources and developing resources through other organizations and government agencies.

The YOI's mission is to address issues related to individuals under the age of 18 who lack parental, foster, or institutional care, including housing, food, health care, and education.



Ada-Hocog

According to the YOI website, there are over 1.35 million homeless children in the United States alone.

The average homeless child is six years old. Also, the National Alliance to End Homelessness indicates that 38 percent of people who are homeless are children.

"The homeless youth of today should not become the homeless adults of tomorrow. As a global community, we must join hands to fight homelessness. There are many ways that ordinary people can aid the cause to end homelessness in children," the YOI said in its mission statement.

Most recently, Ada-Hocog's volunteering included assisting with the 2004 Liberation Festival. She is the chair of the Queen's Committee and is set to accompany the eight members of the Royal Court to Japan next month.

Workers air labor grievances

Some 10 Chinese workers trooped to the Governor's Office yesterday to air their grievances against their employer's alleged labor violations.

The workers complained of unpaid wages owed them by American Lagente Corp., which does business as Tom's Tofu. One of the workers held up a placard that expressed their sentiments.

Gov. Juan N. Babauta, who had just come from a news briefing, accommodated the workers and met with them. His legal counsel and press secretary, Steven Newman and Pete Callaghan, respectively, were also present.

Callaghan said attorney general Pamela Brown also met with the workers.

"They are frustrated," said Callaghan, relating the workers' complaint of back wages that were supposedly due as early as 2001.

Callaghan said the Department of Labor is already conducting an investigation into the company's alleged labor violations. **(John Ravelo)**

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# Outages at hotels, garment factories could take longer

By AGNES E. DONATO  
REPORTER

Power outages at Saipan hotels and garment factories will last a few more days, as Commonwealth Utilities Corp. personnel continue to fix a broken engine, CUC executive director Lorraine A. Babauta said yesterday.

The outages were a result of ongoing electrical repair of engine number 8 at Power Plant 1, which is located in Lower Base.

According to Babauta, CUC needs hotels and garment factories to use their own system to reduce the engine problem’s impact on the CUC power system.

But she stressed that hotels and garment factories do not lose power service all at the same time, as outages are being done based on a load-shedding schedule.

“We sometimes run short of four megawatts during peak hours. That’s when the hotels and garment factories are hooked off. So outages normally take only a couple of hours at a time,” Babauta said. “Our crews continue to work on the engine, particularly the motor for the cooling system. They need to rewind the wiring on the motor. We expect it to be done in a couple of days.”

The power interruptions at

hotels and garment factories started on Tuesday.

Babauta said that if additional load has to be taken off-line, power outage may occur in As Teo, Kagman and Papago between 6:30pm and 8pm. Areas within the Chalan Kiya substation, San Vicente, Airport Road, As Perdido, Koblerville, Dandan and some parts of Papago may also experience power cutoff between 8pm and 10pm.

CUC has four power plants on Saipan, which has installed capacity at 117 megawatts. The primary plant in Lower Base has a derated capacity of 82 megawatts.

baby news

## NMC registration schedule

All incoming and ongoing students of the Northern Marianas College are being urged to register early for the incoming school year.

The registration schedule is as follows:

**Early Registration:** 9am to 4pm  
July 19-23 Ongoing students with at least 30+ credits  
July 26-30 All ongoing students who were registered in SP04  
July 30 All pre and early registrants must be cleared and pay for make arrangements to pay by this date

**Regular Registration:** 9am to 6pm  
Aug. 2-6 Open Registration  
Aug. 9-11 Open Registration

Aug. 9 Government Employees Professional Development Assistance Program (GEPDEP)-first day of registration. Apply at least one week before this date.

**Late Registration:**  
Aug. 12-13 Late Registration; 9am-5pm  
Aug. 14 (Sat) Late Registration; 8am-12noon  
**First Day of Instruction:**  
Aug. 16

For more information about registering for courses at NMC, contact Doris Aldan-Atalig at the Office of Admissions and Records at 234-5498 Ext. 1538.

PTC HARD ROCK  
MICHELLE BRANCH  
CMYK

# 2 from NMI bag PREL scholarships

Justina Foster and Christina Santa Maria of the Northern Mariana Islands are among five residents of the U.S.-affiliated Pacific who were awarded Pacific Teacher Scholarships from Pacific Resources for Education and Learning.

The recipients, who are all students in teacher preparation programs, will each receive \$500 to help pay for tuition and expenses in the 2004-2005 academic year.

Foster traces her interest in teaching to childhood experiences helping her mother teach traditional Carolinian crafts. When she receives her degree in Elementary Education from Northern Marianas College she plans to teach Kindergarten in CNMI.

Santa Maria is the daughter of two teachers, and they inspired her to go into teaching. When she graduates from NMC, she hopes to give back to her community by teaching U.S. history at the high school she attended from in the CNMI.

Foster, Santa Marian, and the other three recipients will be attending their local community colleges. After graduation, they all intend to teach in their home entities.

Another recipient, Lorie Milne, is from the Republic of the Marshall Islands. She has been an elementary school teacher since 2000. When she graduates from the College of the Marshall Islands, she plans to continue teaching in RMI.

“My dream is to finish college and have a good education to serve my country for a brighter future,” she said.

Lui Paulo of American Samoa is a student at American Samoa Community College and is president of that school’s Student Government Association. He plans to obtain a graduate degree in linguistics and then teach English as a Second Language in American Samoa.

Recipient Begonia Tewid of Palau grew up wanting to be a teacher, and even played “teacher and student” with other children in her neighborhood. She now teaches Special Education and plans to continue teaching in the field in Palau after her graduation from Palau Community College.

This new annual scholarship was established by PREL to increase the number of qualified teachers in the U.S.-affiliated Pacific.

# Final session of Eco-Camp starts Monday

The final session of the summer’s Eco Camp starts this Monday. Located at the Mariana Resort and Spa, Eco Camp features activities including go-karts, horseback riding, kayaking, golf, tennis, snorkeling, arts and crafts, swimming, soccer, and more.

Camp director Keirsten Hess is back for her third year of Eco Camp.

“We have had a great summer so far with over 200 kids participating. Eco Camp kids are joined each day by tourists from Korea and Japan. The kids have been doing everything from ballet to mountain biking,” she said.

Camp facilities include three swimming pools, a snorkeling beach, dive pool, golf course, go kart track, arts and crafts room, buffet lunch, baseball and soccer field, and more.

Eco Camp runs from Monday through Friday in two-week sessions. Ages are from 4 to 12. Ages 13 to 15 can participate in the Junior Counselor Program. Special Features include a pickup service, and buffet lunch option. Eco Camp is priced at \$175 per two week session. Applications are available on-line at [www.ecocamp.mp](http://www.ecocamp.mp), the Mariana Resort and Spa, or Gold’s Gym

For more information, call Keirsten at 287-2360.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
A child feeds oats to a horse during Eco-Camp. Caring for horses is just one of the many experiences that participants will learn during camp.

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# Opinion

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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## Letters to the Editor

*Saipan Tribune welcomes contributions. All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name, address and, if possible, fax or telephone number. Letters are edited for space, clarity and fairness.*

## Same tired, old speeches

For nearly three decades now, we've heard tired speeches about (addressing) water shortages here. We're far off the mark from resolution because we're stuck in the mud of address.

The speeches are as empty as the water pipes emplaced in Garapan, San Jose, Susupe, As Lito, As Perdido, San Vicente and Chalan Kanoa Villages.

Then came a new form of government solution: establishment of a water task force to address water problems island-wide. CUC pitched in by planning to retain a consultant to study more water problems we already know. It's a case of the right hand not knowing what the left hand is doing.

The basic premise is: islands throughout the Pacific have small water lenses or aquifers. Island communities suffer from the lack of water in prolonged drought season. It means far less water in aquifers to meet the growing demands of the community. But we've also employed Chamorro Logic by drilling more water wells around the same source only to pump brackish water during the dry season.

The obvious dilemma is the continuing expansion of this community. It needs more water to feed new residential developments, islandwide. The seeming answer is to proceed with desalination of salt water. Otherwise, we may have to revert to building more outside toilets to mitigate the lack of water.

Gentlemen, please spare us the same tired old intramural speeches that are as empty as the pipes in the villages, speeches that have been regurgitated for nearly 30 years.

**John S. DelRosario Jr.**  
Koblerville

## A response to Senator Reyes

Let me respond to Sen. Pete P. Reyes in the same venue in which he made his remarks (in the June 8 issue of this paper). Senator Reyes was unhappy that I did not consult with him prior to my voicing an opinion in my column, On My Mind (found on the web and in this paper's Sunday edition), about his reaction to the governor's veto of three of Senator Reyes' bills. The senator claimed that the vetoes were a personal reaction by the governor, and I disagreed.

Senator, I do not own a TV set. I get my information mainly from reading the two local papers. I often do call parties for information related to subjects I write about, and often obtain copies of, and read, related documents as well.

I did not do so in this case because, to the best of my recollection, in all the coverage given your unhappiness with the governor's vetoes, not once was any substantive argument included about the issues regarding Senate Bill 14-11, Senate Draft 1, which concerned DNA testing in paternity suits. There was no clue that the governor's reasoning was in error, and that your objections did, indeed, have factual grounds.

I know you are articulate, and do not hesitate to voice your opinion. Since I found no explanation of your position in the papers I made the assumption that, therefore, there were no real grounds for the position you were taking on this bill.

The other two bills that were vetoed—one, proposing to abolish celebration of President's Day so as to observe Martin Luther King day, and the other proposing to restrict Marianas Visitors Authority's hiring of nonresident workers—are both more a matter of opinion than a matter of fact, and there did not seem a need for further clarification.

I realize that there is a risk in depending on what the newspapers report and what they don't, on what approach they take. But I simply don't have the resources to verify every piece of newspaper-provided data that I use.

On the bright side, at least now, with your detailed explanation of why SB 14-11 should not have been vetoed, we may all understand what the real issue is. Indeed, perhaps it will encourage legislators to override the veto of this bill. It's a pity the explanation wasn't provided sooner.

Senator, I meant no disrespect. Our relationship has been a respectful one, and I hope it continues that way.

**Ruth L. Tighe**  
Tanapag, Saipan

## Why Reagan is a legend

If the Commonwealth had to pick a hero, Ronald Reagan would be a good choice. After all, it was President Reagan who conferred U.S. citizenship on the island folks, an act that has been followed by a gravy train of sweet moolah that puts the financial sucrose in the term Uncle Sugar.

Of course, if you go anywhere near the English-language media, they have soured the sweetness of Reagan's dignified stature by grinding in into mush with the millstones of Posthumous Saturation Coverage. Among all the romp in the pomp, though, I've gotten a lot of email questions from foreign readers, many of them workers or managers on Saipan, who are trying to gauge the American psyche on this matter. Namely, this: "What's the deal with Ronald Reagan? Why was he so popular?"

Well, that's a fair question. Let me see if I can cook up a fair answer.

You can't separate a man from his times, and Reagan secured the presidency in really bleak times for the United States. Not bleak as in crisis of Great Depression or WWII proportions, but bleak as in a vague and all encompassing despair, like a wet blanket had settled over the nation and was slowly smothering everyone's hopes. President Jimmy Carter just wasn't hitting the right buttons there in the Oval Office.

Inflation was roaring out of control, and I remember well those double-digit interest rates and the obscene, wealth-depleting costs of my parents' mortgage and car payments as they sweat the bills each month.

A gas crisis hit, and was countered with total incompetence.

And on the geopolitical stage, a handful of rag-tag Iranian yahoos holding U.S. hostages managed to geld Uncle Sam, while Carter looked like a deer frozen in headlights.

No disrespect intended to Mr. Carter, since he is a man of great intelligence and character. He just had lousy luck in Washington. And he had no knack for economics.

Still, lousy luck is, well, lousy, and economics is mighty unforgiving of messing up, and any way you looked at it back then, U.S.

## Examining the local mom-and-pop phenomenon

**Q** Hafa Adai! I look forward to reading your column everyday and one thing for sure, you are truly impartial and that I surely appreciate. I have a few concerns that I would like to share with you and hopefully will be able to see you address one or two in your column.

**A** A good number of mom-and-pop stores are operating businesses in small spaces with very limited merchandise and obviously run and managed daily by family members or attendants who could barely communicate in English. It just makes me wonder; how and in what ways do such businesses contribute to the CNMI economy. Are they simply operating such businesses as a front just so they can continue residing in the CNMI? I am sure that their income verse their living expenses is a big negative. Or are they reporting their business gross income?

Certainly, I am pleased to hear of your great interest—like many others—in my Q & A column. My purpose for this column is to enhance public awareness on issues of common interest in the community. It's my goal is to build a strong enough pressure from a well-informed public to compel the policymakers to develop and follow a socio-economic development plan that charts a successful development path for the people of the CNMI.

Let me begin my answer to your question by highlighting the socio-economic significance of small businesses, the so-called "mom-and-pop enterprises." This type of small business is primarily operated by the owner and his/her family members. Small businesses employ almost 60 percent of America's workers, contribute 50 percent of sales and account for half of private sector output. According to published government data, small and family owned businesses represented 98 percent of all U.S. employers, generated the third-largest economy in the world and contributed 50 percent of the gross domestic product in year 2000. According to the U.S. Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy, small firms made up nearly 90 percent of all exporters and produced one-fifth of the known export value in 2001. For that matter no national political leader can afford to ignore policies aimed at addressing the issues concerning mom-and-pop enterprises. Thus, invariably every federal administration has declared policies to improve the economic security of small businesses, provide them help to meet challenges by improving access to capital, ease the tax burden, expand the opportunity of access to new markets, make technology and information work for small businesses and help them in implementing policies that value families. However, development of specific policies addressing issues of small businesses by our lo-

By **ED STEPHENS**

*Ed Stephens, Jr. is an economist and columnist for the Saipan Tribune. "Ed4Saipan@yahoo.com"*



policy—economic, military, whatever—was an utter disaster. Want to understand Reagan's popularity? You have to understand this first. It's a context thing.

And then Ronald Reagan appeared and he turned things around. The smothering blanket was lifted. The sun came out. Things got better. That's what happened. The details don't matter.

Meanwhile, consider that TV is the center of life in the USA, where the average American now watches 5.3 hours per day (yes, per DAY) of television. Reagan wasn't the first TV president, but he was the best. He was telegenic. He was poised. He had an obvious sense of humor. He was dignified, but not stuffy, not cocky, not glib, not pompous. He seemed bigger than the title of President, not the other way around.

He seemed bigger than life, really, which is why so many people were so shaken a few days ago when they found that he wasn't.

Personally, there were some Reagan policies that I did not mesh with. Not everyone in his administration was on my warm-and-fuzzy list. But, so what? He was still a great among greats. In fact, in contemplating the man's legacy, perhaps the best reflection on him is who his shrill and vocal enemies are. If screeching neurotics, child molesters, and welfare queens go apoplectic at the mention of his name...well....that puts points in Reagan's favor right there.

Ronald Reagan is an American legend, who was legendarily good to the people of the Commonwealth, too.

By **MOHAMMAD ASHRAF, PH.D.**

*Ashraf is an International Resource Economist. He is solely responsible for the views expressed in this column and doesn't represent the views of Saipan Tribune. His email address is ashmdr@hotmail.com*



cal government may yet be in its infancy.

Further, I will mention some specific steps taken under the Clinton administration where the Small Business Administration doubled its loan volume to small businesses in three years. With no drop in loans to other business owners, the number of guaranteed loans to women-owned businesses was quadrupled. The 1993 Economic Plan made 90 percent of small businesses eligible for tax relief, helping them to keep money needed for growth. Also, targeted tax preference for capital gains, reduced record keeping requirements, raised the small business expense limit for equipment by 75 percent and extended the Research and Experimentation Tax Credit, reduced the burden of regulatory enforcement, overhauled export controls, and made it easier for small firms to do business with the federal government during the same time.

Similar policies such as tax write-offs for small businesses recently enacted by the Minimum Wage Increase Act, regulatory relief and reduction in paperwork requirements, easier access to needed capital, provision of health care insurance and retirement savings plans for employers and employees are continuing under the current administration of President Bush.

Why are mom-and-pop or family businesses more appreciated by the community, compared with the bigger chain store businesses? The reasons include the effectiveness of family teams, positive customer perceptions of family ownership, willingness of family members to sacrifice for their enterprise, trust among family members, commitment to integrity and reputation, family support and more. Family businesses enable people to work hard for something more important than either opportunity or ego and that's family reputation.

Among the economic benefits of these businesses, studies show that the externally owned firms tend to purchase products from distant suppliers and channel profits to distant owners in other regions, thus generating smaller local multiplier effects than homegrown businesses. The addition of one new small firm results in an overall

See **EXAMINING** on Page 8

# \$200K needed for high school interscholastic sports

By SHAN SEMAN  
REPORTER

The Public School System recently asked for the governor's help in funding an after-school sports program in the Commonwealth.

The PSS said it needs a total \$200,000 to fund the Interscholastic Sports Program for the five high schools in the CNMI.

Education Commissioner Rita H. Inos disclosed in a statement that the money for the program could not be taken from either the Safe and Drug

Free Program or Title V U.S. Department of Education federal funds, or even the annual local appropriation to the PSS.

"I am respectfully requesting your support for an [Office of Telecommunications and Information Applications] grant to support this expanded Interscholastic Sports Program," the commissioner said. "It is for this reason that we seek your support for this Interscholastic Sports Program and respectfully request that you present it on our behalf to [Department of the Interior] Deputy Assistant Secretary David Cohen."

The grant would support cost of coaches, referees, officials, and timekeepers, sports equipment, travel, and annual training for each sport.

If granted, each of the five high schools would get \$36,756 for equipment and uniforms. The schools would also split \$12,622 for team travel between Tinian, Rota, and Saipan, and another \$4,000 for training of coaches, referees, umpires, and timekeepers.

The PSS receives some \$36.9 million in local appropriation; however, Inos said that alone would not be able to support the program.

"The \$36.9 million annual local appropriation to the PSS, provided under continuing resolution at P.L. 13-24 levels, pays for majority of our personnel and almost nothing else," she said.

Interscholastic sports include archery, outrigger canoe racing, swimming, track and field, volleyball, baseball, basketball, football, and field hockey.

"Interscholastic sports provide high school athletes with the opportunity to achieve the success they seek in sports as well as developing teamwork skills that [they] will use

for the rest of their lives in many endeavors far removed from competitive sports," the commissioner said.

The OTIA assists state and local governments, educational and health care entities, libraries, public service agencies, and other groups to better provide public services and advance other national goals. It features a competitive grant program aimed at accomplishing those goals.

The PSS said the goal of the program is to provide competitive individual and team sports programs for the 3,162 students enrolled at secondary schools.

## Japan's Peppy Kids invade Saipan

The largest English conversational school in Nagoya Japan—the Peppy Kids Club—arrived on Saipan on July 20, bringing over 77 Japanese children for the 5th Annual Cultural Exchange Program.

Peppy Kids Club manager Mitsunori Yamazaki, who has been with the club for over two years, coordinated the activities for the children with Gordon Marciano, president of the Chamolinian Cultural Village, so the children could participate in the 2nd annual Summer Festival.

"They [Peppy Kids] come to Saipan every year, but this year is their first time at the Chamolinian Village," said Pacific Development Inc. staff Akiko Hagiwara.

The club consists of over 80,000 children with ages 12-15 currently attending more than 1,000 English classrooms across Japan.

A total of 260 Japanese children, parents and teachers will be on Saipan for four days participating in cultural activities with local children.

"We have 20 local kids from as far as Kagman to Kobler," said Marciano.

Activities include making bead accessories, mwar mwar making, coconut oil making, and banana painting. The children also participated in the planting of coconut trees along the beach area of the Chamolinian village in Garapan.

Before this, the children took up English lessons, conducted by club-

mates of the Pacific Islands Club and teachers from the Peppy Kids club, at PIC's Charlie's Cabaret.

According to Hagiwara, the children will be taking up lessons at the Chamolinian Village and shopping around the Garapan area during their visit on Saipan.

"There [are] two groups. The kids [will be] at Chamolinian Village from 9am to 1pm. The others [will be] shopping in Garapan from 1:30pm to 5pm," she said.

The first group arrived on Tuesday and is scheduled to leave on Friday, while the second group arrived on Wednesday and will be leaving on Saturday. The last group is scheduled to be on island on Aug. 24-27. *(Cassie DLG Fejeran)*

## SBA

From Page 1

tioned in his request the damage sustained in the Northern Islands, the SBA's decision was limited to Saipan only, according to Vicky Villagomez, the Governor's Authorized Representative.

Hector V. Barreto, administrator at the SBA's Disaster Area 4 Office headquartered in California, notified the CNMI of the availability of disaster loans on Saipan, noting the structural damage caused by the typhoon throughout the island.

Barreto said application for loans for physical damage resulting from the disaster could be filed until Sept. 20, 2004, while those for economic injury could be filed until April 20, 2005.

Businesses and individuals may file their application with the SBA representative who will arrive next week, or at this address: U.S. Small Business Administration, Disaster Area 4 Office, P.O. Box 419004, Sacramento, CA 95841-9004.

For physical damage loans, the interest rate can be as low as 2.75 percent for businesses and non-profit organizations without credit available elsewhere. Interest on economic injury loans for businesses and small agricultural cooperatives without other credit lines is also 2.75 percent.

Saipan Chamber of Commerce's Richard Pierce thanked the governor for initiating the SBA request. He assured that the Chamber would disseminate the information on the availability of SBA loans through the Chamber's small business committee.

In his request, Babauta cited the American Red Cross-CNMI chapter's preliminary damage assessment that reported at least four destroyed houses on Saipan and 81 others that sustained major damage. The assessment also reported that at least 101 houses on the island had minor damage.

"Many small businesses suffered damage and lost revenues when they had to shut down operations and remain closed at the height of the typhoon due to dangerous weather conditions. The monsoon rains subsequently caused flooding in many areas after the typhoon that continued to force many small businesses to remain closed until weather conditions improved," the governor said.

The governor also reported at least four houses destroyed and 24 others sustaining major damage on Tinian.

"Many of the destroyed and damaged homes on both islands had [their] roofs blown off, [with] windows and walls damaged, [besides] water damage to personal properties from the monsoon rains that continued for three

days, causing flooding in homes and low-lying areas," Babauta added.

He also said all houses in Agrihan and Pagan islands were destroyed.

As of yesterday, the CNMI was still awaiting presidential declaration of the Northern Marianas as a major disaster area.

A joint preliminary damage assessment conducted by the CNMI and the Federal Emergency Management Agency on Saipan and Tinian estimated damage at over \$2.53 million.

Of this estimate, some \$650,000 would be needed to restore utilities; \$350,000, roads and bridges; \$250,000, buildings and equipment; \$210,000, parks and recreational facilities; \$150,000, water control facilities; and \$77,000, debris clearance. Some \$82,000 would cover overtime pay of government personnel who helped in the response and recovery efforts after the typhoon.

Estimated damage on Rota's roads and bridges that needed debris clearing was over \$761,800. The governor also reported of over \$1 million damage to the island's only commercial port and over \$500,000 damage to crops.

The disaster declaration is needed so that the islands could avail of federal assistance pursuant to Public Law 93-288, also known as the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

no escape, escape attempt or reported involvement in an escape; no alcohol possession or use; and no illegal drug and contraband possession or use.

An inmate released on parole is required to refrain from engaging in any criminal conduct. BOP may also require them to support their dependents and meet other family responsibilities; devote himself or herself to an approved employment or occupation; remain with the geographic limits fixed in their parole certificate; and report to the board at regular intervals, among other things.

## VOLCANOES

From Page 1

in 2003 produced an ash cloud that disrupted regional and international air traffic on at least two days," it added.

Saying that future eruptions would affect the economies of the CNMI and Guam, Quick underscored the need for funding to implement a plan for an early warning system for the Commonwealth.

He said assessing the hazards and monitoring the nine active volcanoes in the Northern Marianas would cost about \$1.9 million per year for the first three years, \$1.2 million in the fourth year, and approximately \$500,000 per year eventually.

Quick said the USGS' Volcano Hazards Program currently has no funds for the plan. He said funding under the program requires an appropriation by the U.S. Congress.

He said the plan should be implemented "at the earliest opportunity."

Gov. Juan N. Babauta has sought the assistance of Interior Secretary Gale Norton for the hazards assessment and early warning system plan for the CNMI, noting its socio-economic importance to the Commonwealth.

Quick said volcanic ashes threaten jets and aircraft in the air, as they form deposit in engines, restrict airflow, and clog fuel nozzles. Minute particles of volcanic ash also contaminate aircraft's ventilation, lubrication, hydraulic and

electronic systems. They cause erosion and pitting of leading edges of windshields and landing lights, as well as erosion of compressor blades.

From 1944 to 2003, Quick said there were at least 110 documented instances of airports closed or operations disrupted in 75 cities and military bases in 20 countries due to volcanic hazards.

The United States has indicated plans of increasing its military presence in the Marianas region and the CNMI is projected to have an escalating strategic role for the nation.

According to U.S. Pacific Command Adm. Thomas B. Fargo, the increase in the military's presence comes amid economic and military development in some Asian countries, including China.

"As the 'center of gravity' for the United States shifts both economically and militarily toward Asia, Guam and the CNMI will play an increasingly more strategic role for the United States," Fargo said. "China and India have huge populations, and as they continue to develop economically, they will have a more significant impact on the U.S. economy."

Fargo, the highest-ranking naval official in the entire Pacific, visited the Northern Marianas for the first time on Tuesday and took an aerial tour of Saipan, Tinian and Farallon de Mendi- nilla to familiarize himself with their geography, infrastructure and potential for future military plans.

## PHYSICIST

From Page 1

prints of their contents and emit only a generic form of radiation.

But on Wednesday at the 17th International Conference on General Relativity and Gravitation, Hawking presented mind-boggling new calculations that suggest black holes are able to cast out their contents—and that there's only one way in and one way out.

Hawking, 62, said he no longer believes a 1980s theory that black holes might offer passage into another universe, a rival explanation for identifying where matter and energy go when consumed by a black hole.

Hawking now sides with particle physicists who have long insisted that any matter swallowed by a black hole can't just disappear but must eventually generate a specific output. The latest theory offers hope that scientists one day may identify the history of what a black hole has taken in over the eons—by decoding what it emits.

"There is no baby universe branching off (inside a black hole), as I once thought. The information remains firmly in our universe," Hawking said in a speech to about 800 physicists and other scientists from 50 countries. "I'm sorry to disappoint science fiction fans,

but if information is preserved, there is no possibility of using black holes to travel to other universes.

"If you jump into a black hole, your mass energy will be returned to our universe, but in a mangled form, which contains the information about what you were like, but in an unrecognizable state."

Hawking's new theory produced waves of skepticism and puzzlement from leading physics professors. Two in the front row—William Unruh of the University of British Columbia and Robert Wald of the University of Chicago—shrugged and shook their heads in disbelief as Hawking spoke.

"Hawking is completely revising his prior belief that what goes into a black hole is washed out. Now he believes that anything emitted from a black hole can be identifiable back to its source," said Wald, an expert on black holes. "He's running away from what we still believe."

Unruh said: "Part of the problem is he's providing so few details, so it's impossible to know whether we can believe these calculations. Stephen Hawking's not stupid, so we're going to take what he says seriously ... but the whole theory we're hearing seems extremely speculative."

Not long ago, Hawking was just as certain that black holes destroyed whatever they took in.

## 36 APPLICATIONS

From Page 1

were reportedly on supervised parole, and one each on Tinian and Rota. There are 14 unsupervised parolees who may have either been deported or voluntarily went back to their respective countries of origin such as the Philippine, Palau, Japan, China, and Korea.

Guam is extending courtesy supervision for one parolee from the CNMI, while the Commonwealth is doing the same for three parolees from Guam.

Of the total number of parolees

in 2003, 15 are Chamorro, three are Chuukese, three are Palauans, seven are Filipinos, five are Chinese, one is Japanese, and one is I-Kiribati. Of these, 42 are male and four are female.

To be eligible for parole, an inmate must have had a satisfactory record of behavior during the past 12 months prior to his application, or since his admission to prison—whichever is shorter.

Satisfactory record means that that the inmate must have had no adverse disciplinary actions requiring severe sanctions imposed while incarcerated;



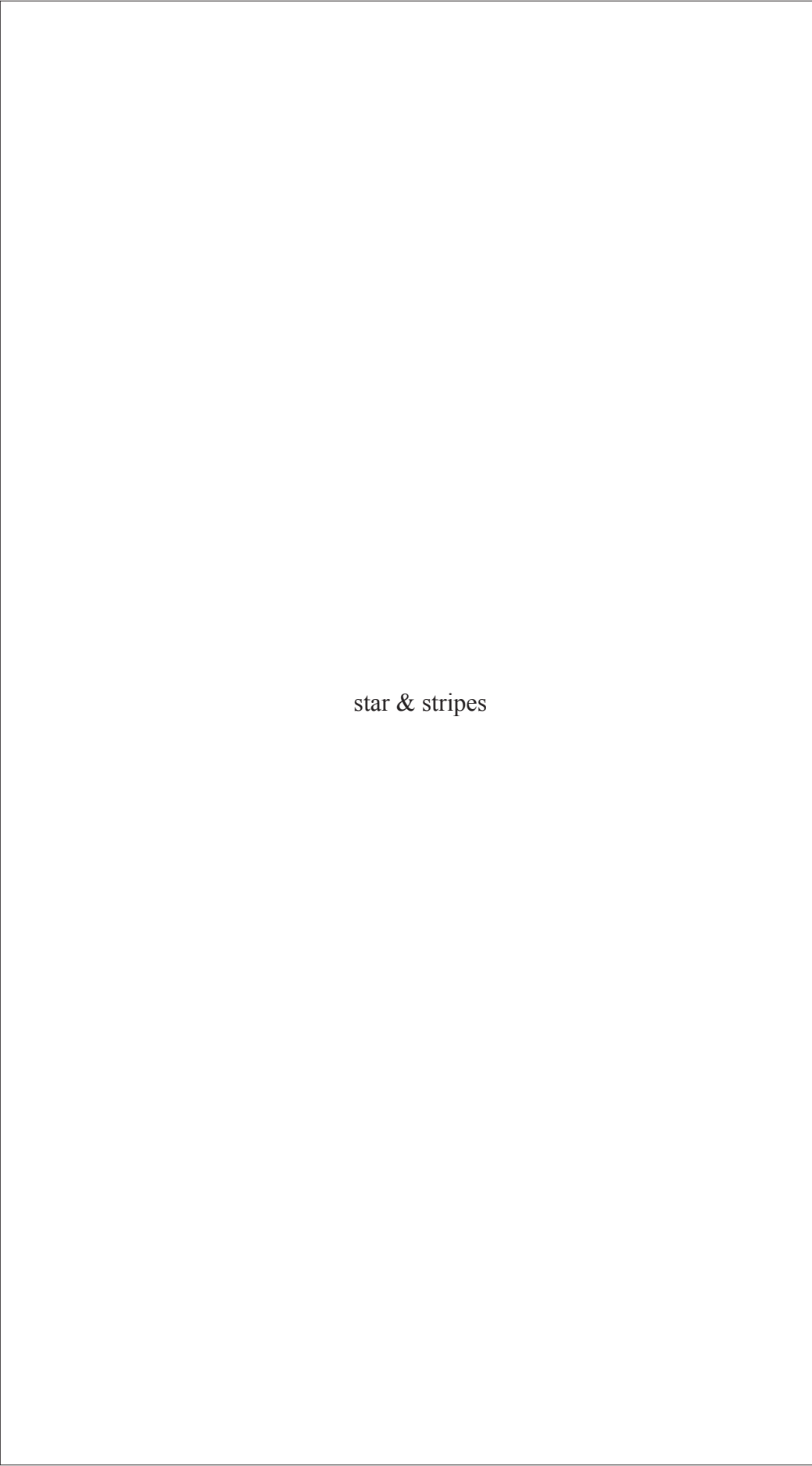




DIAL RENT



dial rent



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# Nation



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Asia

Asian neighbors agree to help North Korea

By **AHN YOUNG-JOON**  
AP WRITER

**JEJU ISLAND, South Korea** (AP)—South Korea pledged Wednesday to expand economic ties with North Korea while Japan said it would seek normal relations with the communist state when a dispute over the North's nuclear ambitions is resolved.

South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun and Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi agreed during their summit meeting to accelerate efforts to resolve the international standoff over Pyongyang's

nuclear weapons program through close consultations with the United States.

Also Wednesday, Roh made clear that he will not hurriedly seek a summit meeting with North Korea's leader Kim Jong Il at a time when international efforts are underway to persuade North Korea to give up its nuclear ambitions.

"When the North Korean nuclear issue is resolved, we made clear that South Korea and Japan will cooperate," Roh said at a joint press conference with Koizumi.

"We will implement comprehensive and specific inter-

Korean projects and Japan will actively work toward establishing diplomatic relations and economic cooperation with the North," he said. He didn't elaborate on what projects South Korea was considering.

The two Koreas have already agreed to build an industrial complex in the North and construct railroads connecting the countries, which are separated by a heavily fortified frontier, a legacy of the 1950-53 Korean War.

"We hope North Korea's leader to make a return visit as agreed upon...but now is not the appropriate time to strongly suggest that to the North," Roh said,

saying that doing so will not help resolve the nuclear dispute.

Koizumi, who arrived earlier Wednesday for a two-day visit, said he explained to Roh details of his May 22 meeting with North Korea's leader Kim Jong Il.

"We agreed that South Korea, Japan and the United States should work together to push North Korea to dismantle its nuclear programs," he told reporters on the southern resort island of Jeju.

He added that Japan and North Korea must build on a pact they signed in September 2002 calling on both sides to tone down their hostile stance toward each other and

work to establish formal ties.

Japan considers North Korea its No. 1 security threat and is concerned about the reclusive regime's development of nuclear weapons and missile technology.

Japan ruled Korea as a colony from 1910 until 1945, and Tokyo-Seoul relations remained bitter for decades. Ties, however, have warmed considerably in recent years.

On Wednesday, the two leaders agreed to hold more informal meetings in the future.

Three rounds of talks on North Korea's nuclear ambitions have been held in Beijing, but none has produced a break-

through. The United States, Russia, China, Japan and the two Koreas took part.

At the latest talks, North Korea offered to freeze its nuclear program in exchange for energy, the lifting of U.S. economic sanctions and removal from Washington's list of countries that sponsor terrorism. It said the freeze would be a step toward eventual dismantling.

The U.S. proposal required the North to disclose all its nuclear activities, helping to dismantle facilities and allow outside monitoring. Under the plan, some benefits would be withheld to ensure the North cooperates.

verizon  
cmyk



Women board a small boat as others wade through a flooded street in Amingaon, 15 kms west of Gauhati, India, Wednesday, July 21, 2004.

Monsoon floods kill 42 more in S. Asia

**DHAKA, Bangladesh** (AP)—Monsoon floods, tornadoes and rains roared through already inundated villages in South Asia, killing 42 more people and raising the region's death toll from the annual deluge to 546, officials and news reports said Wednesday.

In India, 27 people died in the eastern Bihar state, including 11 killed when their boat overturned in the raging Gandak River, Superintendent of Police Kapileshwar Manjhi told The Associated Press.

In neighboring Bangladesh,

15 people were killed.

Tornadoes and torrential rains destroyed hundreds of already submerged houses and uprooted trees Tuesday in two of Bangladesh's northern districts, news reports said. At least 100 people were hurt by flying debris.

Eleven people, including several children, drowned Tuesday in Sunamganj, 110 miles north-east of Bangladesh's capital, Dhaka, the Sangbad newspaper reported Wednesday. Four members of a family drowned when their boat capsized in a

flood-swollen river near Dhaka, the Ittefaq daily reported.

Last year, 1,500 people died across South Asia during the mid-June to mid-October monsoons. This year, 310 have died in India, 140 in Bangladesh, 80 in Nepal and five in Pakistan.

In Bangladesh, floods have affected more than 15 million people, the government's disaster management and relief ministry said Wednesday. Floodwaters have also destroyed 5 million acres of crops, and damaged 10,000 miles of roads.

Chess great Bobby Fischer seeking asylum

**TOKYO** (AP)—Former world chess champion Bobby Fischer has appealed Japanese plans to deport him to the United States and hopes to find political asylum in a third country, a friends said Wednesday.

Fischer was detained by Japanese immigration officials last week after trying to leave the country for the Philippines. Officials say his passport was invalid, and on Tuesday confirmed that he was being processed for deportation.

Fischer is wanted in the United States for playing a rematch against Soviet world champion Boris Spassky in Yugoslavia in 1992. Yugoslavia was under international sanctions at the time, and U.S. citizens were banned from doing business there.

Fischer won the match and more than \$3 million in prize money.

Fischer rocketed to fame in the United States at the height of the Cold War when

he defeated Spassky in a series of games in Reykjavik, Iceland, in 1972.

His genius for chess was quickly overshadowed by his eccentric behavior, however. He lost his title as world champion in 1978 and then largely vanished from the public eye.

After visiting Fischer in custody at Tokyo's Narita Airport, Miyoko Watai, of the Japan Chess Association, said Wednesday Fischer was appealing the deportation.



# Death was close for Filipino hostage

By JIM GOMEZ  
AP WRITER

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—Death came far too close for Filipino hostage Angelo dela Cruz, who says Iraqi insurgents at one point sharpened a sword and probed his neck for the right spot to cut.

But his fate changed dramatically when his captors learned that Filipino troops would withdraw from Iraq to meet their demand and agreed to let him go, according to statements the 46-year-old truck driver gave to Philippine officials and friends since he was freed in Baghdad on Tuesday.

The officials and others spoke

to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity. Dela Cruz has publicly said he was treated well during his terror-filled two-week captivity.

“They did not harm me and I’m relieved that I survived. I really thought my time had come,” dela Cruz told a Filipino reporter in Manila.

Dela Cruz’s nightmare began July 4 when Iraqi insurgents attacked his long convoy of fuel trucks that had crossed into Iraq from Saudi Arabia. The insurgents slapped him when he tried to resist. His Iraqi guard was shot dead, but 10 other Filipino drivers were rescued, officials said.

It was previously reported that he was kidnapped near

Fallujah, a hotbed of anti-U.S. resistance, on July 7.

Dela Cruz, constantly guarded by six young insurgents clutching AK-47s and grenade launchers, was bound and stashed in a car compartment while being moved to at least four houses. From one, dela Cruz heard frequent rumbling from tanks and the drone of fighter jets overhead, an official said.

He did not see other captives, but was once detained in a room with dried bloodstains that appeared to have squirted on the floor, the official said. Dela Cruz once thought of escaping but changed his mind after realizing he would just be lost.

“He had many sleepless

nights,” the official said. “He was always preoccupied with his potential execution and wondered if that would be done with the use of a sword or a gun. He hoped it would be the latter because it seemed much less painful.”

In one of the most critical moments, a kidnapper embraced him, saying: “I love you, I love you but I have to do this,” the official said. His abductors sharpened a sword in front of him and examined his neck, apparently looking for a vein.

His captors, identified as the Iraqi Islamic Army-Khaled bin Al-Waleed Corps, had threatened to behead dela Cruz if a tiny Philippine peacekeeping were not recalled from Iraq by



AP  
Filipino truck driver Angelo dela Cruz waves goodbye as he leaves the Philippines embassy in Baghdad, Iraq Wednesday July 21, 2004 a day after being released by militants.

the end of July—a month ahead of schedule. At one point, the insurgents said he had been brought to the place where he would be killed.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo initially hesitated. But on July 13, Foreign Undersecretary Rafael Seguis went on television station to announce the pullout.

When the insurgents saw the government was serious, they cheered and told dela Cruz: “Allah wants you to live,” then embraced him, according to the official.

On Monday, they monitored news reports on the last Filipino peacekeepers crossing the

border from Iraq into Kuwait and told dela Cruz he would be freed Tuesday, the official said.

He was even given fare money and told that he would be dropped off somewhere in Baghdad.

“We’ll still see you on TV but you’ll never see us again,” the insurgents told dela Cruz, according to the official.

Dela Cruz was taken to the United Arab Emirates Embassy in the Iraqi capital and from there, he was fetched by Philippine diplomats, ending a diplomatic firestorm and national vigil that upset close ties between Manila and Washington but brought dela Cruz home alive.

## ‘China holding US-based dissident’

**BEIJING** (AP)—China is holding a U.S.-based dissident who disappeared while traveling in Myanmar, a human rights group said Wednesday.

Peng Ming, a veteran Chinese democracy activist who lives in California, was arrested in Myanmar around May 22 on charges of possessing fake Chinese money and turned over to Chinese authorities, according to Washington-based Worldrights.

Myanmar and China may have worked together “to snare” Peng, the group said in a statement. It said he was detained with a Chinese companion, Zhong Ping, who is under house arrest.

“Without certifiable proof of any wrongdoing on Peng’s part, his detention is manifestly arbitrary,” said Worldrights executive director Timothy Cooper in the statement. “We call for Peng’s immediate release and his safe return to the United States.”

Peng is leader of the China

Federation Foundation, which was founded in California last year. He told The Associated Press at that time that its goal is to replace communist rule with democracy.

The Worldrights statement said Peng was being held in the central Chinese city of Wuhan. Police and prosecutors reached by phone in Wuhan said they had no information about the case.

Peng went to Myanmar to set up a haven for fleeing Chinese dissidents, the statement said. It said he entered Myanmar from Thailand, where his parents live as refugees.

Peng spent 18 months in a Chinese labor camp after he was arrested in 1999 amid a crackdown on dissent that sent dozens of dissidents into prison or exile.

Released in August 2000, he left China and moved to the United States in 2001 and has applied for permanent U.S. residency.

MELL  
CMYK

# US and Afghan forces kill 10 militants

**KANDAHAR, Afghanistan** (AP)—Ten militant fighters were killed Wednesday when they attacked a U.S.-led force near the hometown Mullah Omar, the fugitive Taliban leader, the American military said.

“Approximately 40 enemy forces engaged the coalition soldiers who were conducting operations in the area,” U.S. spokesman Maj. Rick Peat said in an e-mail. “Approximately 10 enemy forces were killed in action, and five were wounded and captured.”

Elsewhere, 11 Afghan militia soldiers were killed in an overnight ambush, underlining the violence that officials warn will increase in advance of presidential elections in October.

Peat said five militants and five government soldiers also were wounded in the battle near Deh Rawood, 250 miles southwest of the Kabul.

Deh Rawood mayor Amir Jan said three of the dead were brothers of a close associate of Omar.

Uruzgan police claimed Tuesday to have captured Mullah Amanullah, a brother-in-law of Omar, after stopping his car near Deh Rawood.

It was not clear what role Amanullah, who uses one name, held in the Taliban movement, which has fought frequent battles with American forces in the area this year.

The 11 militiamen were reportedly ambushed on patrol near Khana Shien in neighboring Helmand province.

Gunmen opened up on their pickup truck with AK-47s and machine guns and finished it off with a rocket, local government spokesman Haji Mohammed Wali said.

## Pakistan, and India foreign execs meet

**ISLAMABAD, Pakistan** (AP)—Pakistani and Indian foreign ministers held “frank” and “honest” discussions at a regional conference Wednesday, hoping to speed the pace of peace talks that have given new hope the nuclear-armed neighbors might permanently end decades of hostility.

Foreign Minister Khursheed Kasuri met his Indian counterpart, Natwar Singh, over breakfast at Islamabad’s Marriott Hotel.

“Our talks today were frank, they were honest, they were candid, they were friendly and they were warm,” Kasuri said afterward. “Every issue of concern was raised by me and every issue of concern was raised by Mr. Natwar Singh.”

The talks took place before a gathering of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, in which foreign ministers agreed to expand cooperation in different fields. India and Pakistan are the two largest countries in the grouping.

In recent months, India and Pakistan have initiated a dialogue they hope will lead to a permanent peace deal and solve the long-simmering dispute over Kashmir, a Himalayan region over which the countries have fought two of their three wars.

CJPA

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# World



Science & Technology

What to look for when shopping for laptops

By ROB PEGORARO  
THE WASHINGTON POST

The laptop computer business is doing better than ever, but the idea of the laptop computer is getting scrambled in the process. Instead of a lightweight computer that's meant to be used on the go, many laptops these days weigh too much to be toted any farther than from a desk to a sofa. Weirder yet, some

manufacturers act as if consumers don't even care what a laptop weighs. HP doesn't make a single consumer laptop lighter than 6.5 pounds, and its print ads fail to list the poundage of any of its portable models—even those in the thin-and-light category. At Toshiba's Web site, you must download a spec-sheet document, thick with fine print, to see what kind of dent each machine will put in your shoulder. The underlying trend here is that so many laptops are bought to take the place of desktop machines. As the cost and performance gap between desk-bound and portable machines has steadily shrunk, consumers have started going with the computers that take up less space. (The scarcity of desktop systems that aren't built around

bulky tower cases also may be a factor.) Computers bought along these lines are best thought of as all-in-one desktop systems with built-in uninterruptible power supplies. They won't rack up any travel miles, nor are they even likely to spend much time on laps—10 pounds of warm computer quickly becomes uncomfortable in that position. Some vendors, however, seem to be taking the popularity of this "desktop replacement" concept a little too far—as an excuse to give up on portability entirely. They appear content to forgo even minimal attempts to trim the weight of their products, shipping eight-, nine- or 10-pound behemoths (even while some competitors offer lighter machines at

the same price and with the same capabilities). It's hard to escape the feeling that some folks in the industry have just gotten lazy. Many customers, in turn, have obliged this practice by continuing to buy machines on clock speed alone, even though the slowest new chip is more than fast enough for most uses. This is a big mistake all around. The history of computing is one of unexpected uses—consider, for instance, how the MP3 format, an obscurity seven years ago, has made the PC many people's stereo system. Today, WiFi wireless networking is having a similar effect, inviting customers to pick up that laptop and move it around the house—and

See WHAT on Page 34

Tale of the tape for laptop lightweights

What's a good laptop for on-the-go use? To find out, we requested the lightest possible consumer-use laptop available for \$1,500 or so from Apple, Gateway, Dell, Hewlett-Packard, IBM, Sony and Toshiba. IBM and Sony declined, saying they wouldn't have products available meeting those criteria; Toshiba was able to supply only the A75, which we evaluated to see how a desktop-replacement laptop might

compare to lighter models. Fine-print details: Processor speeds may be slower in power-conservation modes; hard-drive capacities are as reported by the installed operating system; CD and DVD speeds appear in the following order: write/rewrite/read. Warranty and tech-support policies are each vendor's standard offerings, but longer-term coverage can usually be purchased. (The Washington Post)



Hewlett-Packard Pavilion zt3000

By ANTHONY ZURCHER  
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

The zt3000's wide, 15.4-inch screen is its most appealing feature—and perhaps its greatest liability. This display is great for watching movies, but its width makes the laptop a bit bulky to carry around. And at 7.6 pounds, counting the power brick, the zt3000 isn't exactly a featherweight either. Putting that screen to its logical use as a personal movie theater, we got 2 1/2 hours of DVD playback. In our usual MP3-playback test (with the screen at half brightness), its battery life

stretched to 3 1/2 hours. On the lowest power settings, we eked out roughly four hours of use away from an outlet. HP put a fair amount of thought into the zt3000's design. It has sufficient memory and hard-disk space, with both a DVD+RW drive and an SD Card slot for transferring files large and small. Its FireWire port and three USB 2.0 connectors should accommodate a typical set of peripherals without juggling. The zt3000's 802.11g WiFi card can be quickly switched on and off with a button on the front, and volume adjustments

See HEWLETT on Page 33

ctsi

# Dell Inspiron 600m

By REBECCA ROHAN  
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

At 5 1/2 pounds, plus a pound for a power adapter, the Inspiron 600m isn't a miniature laptop, but it is a comfortable carry, with its compact frame and rounded corners.

This seemingly small machine, like a fun house, offers more than you'd expect on the inside, in the form of a roomy 14.1-inch screen and large keys. (Their pale lettering was hard to read; Dell should use higher-contrast paint or add a keyboard light, as IBM does.)

Processor and storage are all about average for this category—helpfully, the CD-RW/DVD-ROM drive comes as a removable, replaceable module, allowing customers an easy upgrade down the road. The oddball memory allotment of 384 megabytes, however, is on the low side. And with only two USB 2.0 ports and no FireWire ports, users with more than a couple of peripherals will need to buy a USB hub or get used to plugging and unplugging cables.

Gigabit Ethernet (10 times faster than the networking on most home computers) and a reader for "smart cards" (electronic IDs issued by some financial institutions and employers) might seem

**Price:** \$1,569 (\$150 mail-in rebate available).  
**Weight and screen:** 5.5 pounds (6.5 pounds with power adapter), 14.1-inch LCD (1,024 by 768 pixels).  
**Processor and memory:** 1.5 GHz Intel Pentium M processor, 384 MB memory, 32 MB ATI Mobility Radeon 9000 graphics.  
**Storage:** 37.2 GB hard drive, 24x/10x/24x CD-RW/8x DVD-ROM combo drive.  
**Communications:** 1-Gbps Ethernet, 802.11b WiFi, v.92 modem.  
**Expansion:** One PC Card slot, one smart-card reader, two USB 2.0 ports, one parallel port, one serial port, one infrared port, one VGA monitor port, one S-Video port.  
**Support:** One-year warranty. 24-hour, toll-free phone support.



tus even when the computer's off, but they didn't illuminate on our review unit.

Tech support is free for the life of the product—one of Dell's standout virtues—and squared us away when the internal modem wouldn't start without reinstalling a driver.

Dell's advertised software bundle is built around Microsoft Works Suite (including Word 2002) and a 90-day trial of Norton Internet Security, but the review unit instead included Corel's WordPerfect Office and 90 days of McAfee's security suite. Six months of AOL also come free, a generous extra. The installed copy of Windows XP needed 14 security updates.

Like most Dells, the Inspiron 600m isn't the most exciting machine ever, but it's unlikely to leave you flat on the road.

## HEWLETT

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**Price:** \$1,623 (\$50 mail-in rebate available).  
**Weight and screen:** 6.8 pounds (7.6 pounds with power adapter), 15.4-inch widescreen LCD (1,280 by 800 pixels).  
**Processor and memory:** 1.6 GHz Intel Pentium M processor, 512 MB memory, 32 MB ATI Mobility Radeon 9200 graphics.  
**Storage:** 55.8 GB hard drive, 16x/8x/24x CD-RW/2x/2x/8x DVD+RW combo drive, one SD Card slot.  
**Communications:** 100-Mbps Ethernet, 802.11g WiFi, v.90 modem.  
**Expansion:** One PC Card slot, one four-pin FireWire port, three USB 2.0 ports, one parallel port, one infrared port, one VGA monitor port, one S-Video port.  
**Support:** One-year warranty. One year of 24-hour, toll-free phone support; \$40 per issue afterward.

are equally simple—the can't-miss buttons are on top of the right-hand speaker.

Like most mice, HP's touchpad incorporates a separate scrolling control; a set of lines imprinted on its right-side edge show where to drag a fingertip to scroll up or down in a window. A button above the touchpad deactivates this feature if it stymies your typing.

The keyboard itself feels comfortable and fairly responsive, aside from an infuriatingly balky shift key.

As with many home computers these days, the software bundle is the weakest aspect of the zt3000. The preinstalled version of Windows XP required 19 updates, some dating to last summer, and the virus protection lasts 60 days instead of the usual 90. Only the 2003 editions of Microsoft Money and Quicken were onboard.

Although HP now bundles Apple's superior iTunes, the review unit included the mediocre Musicmatch Jukebox instead. The company said this particular machine had been set up with an older software bundle, one still found on some machines in stores.

Tech support was a bit spotty, with some poorly organized online documentation and phone wait times ranging from mere seconds to three or four minutes.

nice additions, but how many consumers will ever use them?

Battery life fell a bit below expectations, given this machine's power-efficient Pentium M chip: 2 hours and 18 minutes of DVD playback, 3 1/4 hours of music playback and just over four hours at minimum power settings. A set of LEDs on the battery's underside should let you check its charge sta-

# Gateway 200X

By BOB MASSEY  
THE WASHINGTON POST

Losing three pounds may not matter much to the average person, but on a laptop it makes a huge difference. If you've ever lugged an eight-pound laptop, this light, slim machine—4 pounds 5 ounces without the power adapter—will feel like some kind of low-carb treat.

But a more realistic weight for the Gateway 200X factors in that accessory—its poor battery life means you'll usually need to tote the power brick, which adds most of a pound by itself.

In a DVD-screening test, with the screen at maximum brightness and the WiFi adapter on, the 200X ran for a measly 81 minutes. It lasted for 122 minutes in a digital-music playback test (with the screen at half-brightness and WiFi on); with WiFi off and the screen dimmed as low as feasible, it endured 184 minutes. Those figures are poor for any laptop using Intel's efficient Pentium M chip.

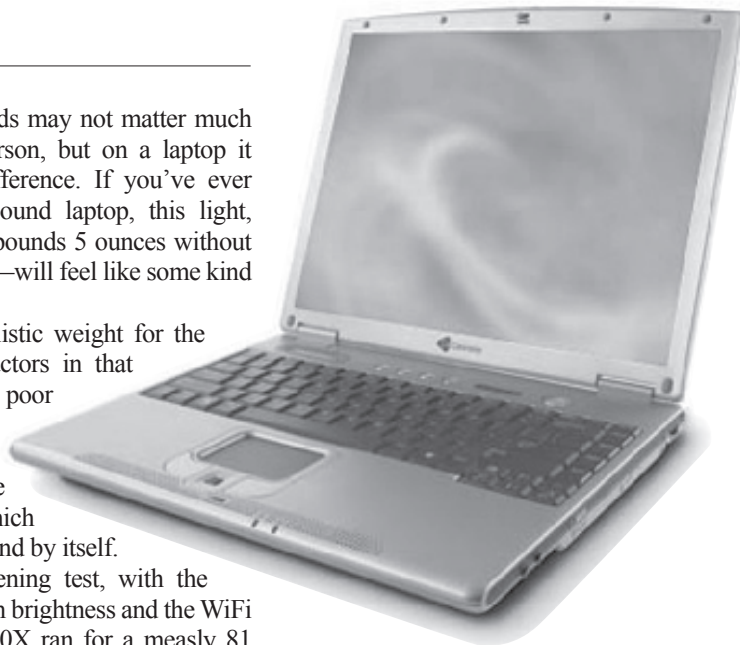
To Gateway's credit, the machine did stay cool enough to permit actual lap use.

The 200X isn't a powerhouse in its other specifics. Subtracting memory reserved for its weak graphics circuitry leaves an unremarkable 248 megabytes of RAM. Its 37.2 gigabytes of hard-drive capacity is nothing special either, even if Gateway ships a real Windows backup CD instead of carving a system-restore partition out of the hard drive.

Expansion is available via two USB 2.0 ports—one on each side—and one, four-pin FireWire port. Its touchpad includes a scroll wheel, although its position between the touchpad buttons makes them slightly awkward to tap.

Calls to tech support reached live, friendly and mostly well-informed humans after four to seven minutes.

Gateway's thoroughly unremarkable software bundle is built around Microsoft Works and the basic version of Musicmatch Jukebox (which repeatedly nags you to buy the "Plus" edition). Equally pushy marketing occurs in Gateway's promotion of the Rhapsody music service.



**Price:** \$1,400.  
**Weight and screen:** 4.3 pounds (5.1 pounds with power adapter), 14.1-inch LCD (1,024 by 768 pixels).  
**Processor and memory:** 1.5 GHz Intel Pentium M processor, 512 MB memory, Intel Extreme Graphics 2 (8 MB shared).  
**Storage:** 37.2 GB hard drive, 24x/24x/24x CD-RW/8x DVD-ROM combo drive.  
**Communications:** 100-Mbps Ethernet, 802.11g WiFi, v.92 modem.  
**Expansion:** One PC Card slot, one four-pin FireWire port, two USB 2.0 ports, one VGA monitor port, one S-Video port.  
**Support:** One-year warranty. One year of 24-hour, toll-free phone support; \$2.95 per minute afterward.

Pinnacle Instant Video Album, a slightly more elegant editing suite than Windows Movie Maker, and Nero Express, which creates video, data, AAC, MP3 and Windows Media Audio CDs, are the only major high points among bundled programs. The low point is Windows XP Professional; the preinstalled copy lacked patches dating back to July 2003.

This laptop needs a round of security updates and either a second battery or Gateway's optional, higher-capacity battery before it's a real contender.

kfc  
+red/blue

# Apple iBook G4

By ALAN S. KAY

SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

What to say about the Apple iBook G4? It's an Apple—well put together, good fit and finish, with better software integration than you're likely to see on a Windows machine and great battery life. It also features Apple's characteristic little design refinements, such as a subtle, barely visible apple logo on the lid that glows when the laptop is in sleep mode and a charging light around the power connector plug.

And, of course, it's white.

The iBook is a relatively light, at just under five pounds without the AC adapter (which itself adds just half a pound, much less than most laptops' power bricks). It has fewer expansion options than many competitors—no PC Card slot and two USB 2.0 ports instead of three—but many users may not notice the difference.

The small, 12.1-inch screen offered excellent off-axis visibility. There's a large touchpad and a decent but not great keyboard (it fell short of the smooth, authoritative feel of an IBM ThinkPad's). An Airport Extreme WiFi card is optional; the one included here worked flawlessly.

Setting up the iBook was straightforward, except that its registration sequence would not let me set it up and start working without entering personal information in a marketing-oriented questionnaire. I can opt out of receiving Apple's e-mails or phone

**Price:** \$1,178.

**Weight and screen:** 4.9 pounds (5.4 pounds with power adapter), 12.1-inch LCD (1,024 by 768 pixels).

**Processor and memory:** 1 GHz G4 processor, 256 MB memory, 32 MB ATI Mobility Radeon 9200 graphics.

**Storage:** 27.9 GB hard drive, 24x/16x/24x CD-RW/8x DVD-ROM combo drive.

**Communications:** 100-Mbps Ethernet, 802.11g WiFi, v.92 modem.

**Expansion:** One six-pin FireWire port, two USB 2.0 ports, one VGA monitor/composite video/S-video port.

**Support:** One-year warranty. 90 days of 9 a.m.-9 p.m., toll-free phone support; \$49 per issue afterward.

calls, but I can't skip this questionnaire.

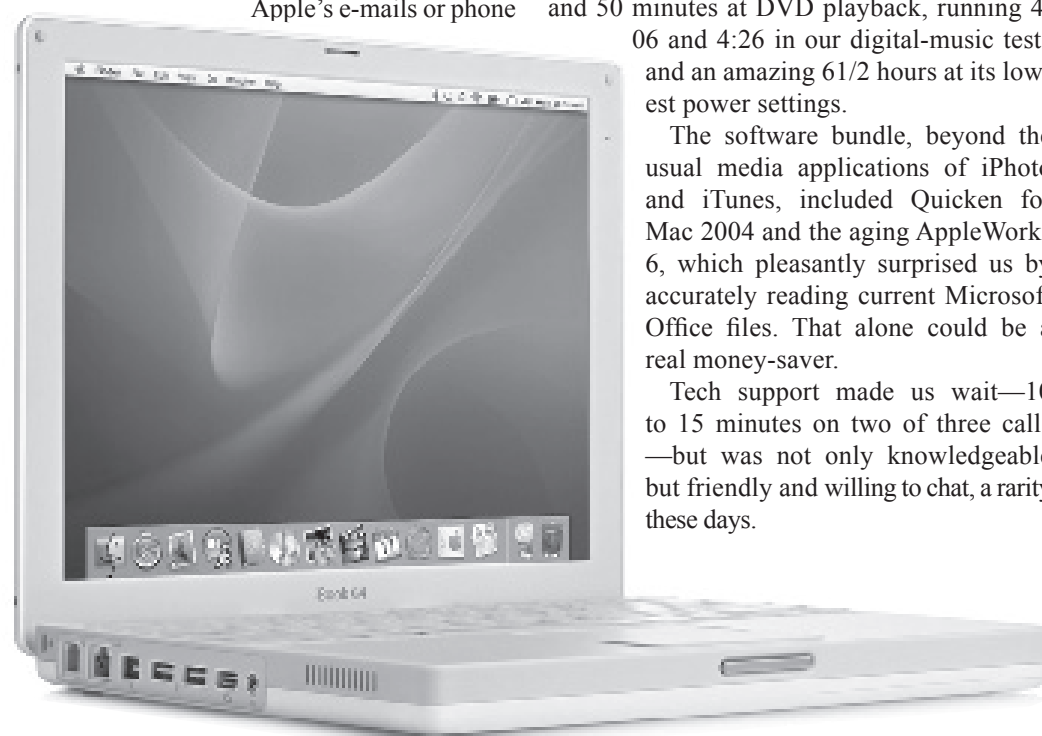
The iBook's default configuration is on the skimpy side, with a smaller hard drive than most machines and just 256 megabytes of memory.

A couple of other annoyances surfaced in day-to-day use: Its spiffy, slot-loading CD-RW/DVD drive frequently failed to eject a disc far enough for it be grabbed by its edges, and the charging indicator light often neglected to turn green when the battery was fully charged.

Then again, we didn't have to charge the battery too often. The iBook surpassed every other machine in this roundup, lasting 2 hours and 50 minutes at DVD playback, running 4:06 and 4:26 in our digital-music tests and an amazing 61/2 hours at its lowest power settings.

The software bundle, beyond the usual media applications of iPhoto and iTunes, included Quicken for Mac 2004 and the aging AppleWorks 6, which pleasantly surprised us by accurately reading current Microsoft Office files. That alone could be a real money-saver.

Tech support made us wait—10 to 15 minutes on two of three calls—but was not only knowledgeable but friendly and willing to chat, a rarity these days.



urban outlet  
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## WHAT

From Page 32

outside, thanks to the growing number of cheap or free WiFi hot spots at coffee shops, bookstores and libraries.

So why buy the laptop that weighs more if you don't have to? That's why my laptop shopping list starts with this concern. If you need to take the computer multiple places in a day, anything much over five pounds will be intolerable. Even if you don't think you'll be moving the computer, seven pounds seems a realistic limit.

Above that, an all-in-one desktop from vendors such as Gateway and Sony (and Apple, whenever it resumes selling the iMac) will probably offer a more comfortable keyboard and display at a lower price.

Screen size comes next. Because laptop displays are viewed at much closer distances than desktop monitors, you can com-

fortably use a screen smaller than a desktop's. Fourteen- or 15-inch LCDs should be fine for most folks; their widescreen variants are well-suited for DVD playback and multi-tasking. Seventeen-inch displays generally add too much cost or weight.

Remember to look up a screen's resolution in pixels, or picture elements. Because different sizes of screen can share the same resolution, bigger isn't always better. For example, Apple's 14-inch iBook G4 has the same pixel count as the cheaper 12-inch model.

Next, consider the laptop's memory. Get at least 256 megabytes of random-access memory, and preferably 512. Get at least a 40-gigabyte hard drive. Get at least a combination CD-RW/DVD-ROM drive, and if you opt for a DVD burner, DVD+RW is the easier format to work with.

Some computers helpfully include a fourth storage option: slots for the memory

cards used in digital cameras and handheld organizers.

A laptop without WiFi is like a bike without wheels. Given the minimal difference between the 802.11b and 802.11g flavors of this standard, you might as well get the faster "g" option. An Ethernet port and a v.92 modem remain necessary too.

A laptop's processor should be next on the shopping list—not because its relative speed is likely to matter, but because of what it can do for battery life. If you have a choice between a Pentium 4 and a Pentium M processor, go with the latter, which uses less electricity (its clock speeds understate its performance anyway).

In terms of expandability, the rule is simple: The more USB ports, the better. A FireWire port is a good idea if you own an iPod, edit home movies or plan on doing either. Parallel and serial ports are most likely useless if your peripherals date from the current century.



Life & Style

Singer Groban speaks at Mich. arts camp



Josh Groban in a promotional photo.

Josh Groban had an artistic homecoming Monday, returning to the art school that he says did much to launch his career as a singer and songwriter. “I’ve been dreaming of coming back here,” the 23-year-old rising star told hundreds of cheering youths at the Interlochen Center for the Arts, where he will perform in concert Tuesday night. A native of Los Angeles, Groban attended Interlochen’s summer music camp in 1997 and 1998, majoring in musical theater. Since then, he has recorded two

top-selling albums, made numerous television appearances, performed with the likes of Celine Dion and Sarah Brightman and sung a memorable duet with Charlotte Church in the closing ceremonies of the 2002 Olympics. He is presently on a summer tour. Returning to Interlochen the day before his concert, Groban fielded questions from delighted campers. In addition to providing top-notch professional instruction, he said, his two summers at Interlochen helped focus his thoughts and chart a professional course.

“It opened up my eyes to so many things I wanted to learn, needed to learn,” he said. “It became so crystal clear where I wanted to devote my energy.” Groban said his Interlochen days represent a time before he was exposed to the business side of entertainment, which “can be kind of icky at times.” “There’s nothing but a love of the arts, a love of what you do, about his place,” he said. Asked how he would advise today’s young artists hoping to follow his footsteps, he said, “Stay grounded and

work as hard as humanly possible—and listen to your teachers.” One of Groban’s early instructors, Hugh Floyd, watched proudly as his former student signed autographs for squealing fans. “I thought he would have a successful career, but not nearly this fast,” said Floyd, the camp’s director of choirs and operetta. “He had a wonderful voice then, and of course he has striking looks. Even at 16 or 17, though his voice wasn’t that developed, there was so much potential.” (AP)

Media argues against Jackson secrecy

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Jackson wants “a celebrity exception to the First Amendment” which will keep much of his child molestation case secret, a media lawyer argued in a motion filed Tuesday. Theodore Boutrous Jr., answering a defense motion defending secrecy and deriding press coverage, accused Jackson’s lawyers of engaging in a “misguided tirade” against the press while displaying “insensitivity to basic First Amendment values.” Boutrous challenged Jackson’s claim that he wants the same rights as other defendants. “What he is really seeking is a blanket celebrity exception to the First Amend-

ment that would turn the notion of public access upside down,” said Boutrous, who represents a coalition of news organizations including The Associated Press. Boutrous was responding to a vitriolic motion filed by the defense Monday which portrayed reporters as voyeurs with no legitimate interests in covering the court system. “The interest in this case is more voyeuristic and entertainment related than it is an interest of an audience concerned with matters of government or public affairs,” the motion said. The defense urged the California 2nd District Court of Appeal to refuse a media request for an expedited hearing

and perhaps delay the entire issue of press access until the trial is over. Boutrous responded that the media “are not seeking to create a ‘circus’ ... but rather are simply trying to report on official judicial records and proceedings.” “As the official record stands right now,” Boutrous said, “the public does not even know the actual allegations that form the basis of the felony indictment.” Jackson, 45, is charged with committing a lewd act on a child, administering an intoxicating agent and conspiring to commit child abduction, false imprisonment and extortion. The 28 acts alleged to have occurred are sealed, as are the names of alleged co-conspirators.

Springsteen fan magazine moves to NC

CARRBORO, N.C. (AP)—A popular fan magazine and Web site devoted to Bruce Springsteen soon will be based in North Carolina. Chris Phillips, editor and publisher of Backstreets, which has covered Springsteen since 1980, will relocate to Carrboro from Washington. Phillips, 33, and his small staff track and review concerts, give news updates about Springsteen and his E Street Band, sell merchandise and host a lively message board where fans can chat and exchange tickets. The decision to move south was strictly personal, Phillips said re-

cently. He and his wife, Laura, are both Duke University graduates, and have always considered relocating to the Triangle area. “I’ve seen quite a few Springsteen shows (in North Carolina) over the years, and we always thought it’d be a good place to settle down,” Phillips said. “We’re essentially just an office.” The local music scene attracted Phillips to the area. His office in Carr Mill Mall is just a quick walk away from Cat’s Cradle, a local rock club. “Chapel Hill was on top of my list for all sorts of reasons,” he said. “The music scene was one of them.”

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# Reality show turns Amish into TV stars

By LYNN ELBER  
AP TELEVISION WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Television is not part of the traditional Amish world. But the Amish are now part of television, like it or not. “Amish in the City” gives five young adults the chance to explore the big city and discover what life is like outside their Amish communities.

In the first two episodes of the UPN reality series, they hit the beach for sun and fun, visit a mall and cultivate sometimes uneasy relationships with six non-Amish sharing their temporary Hollywood Hills home.

Compared to other fishbowl shows like “Big Brother” or “The Real World” the series is tame, at least in the early going. There’s no drinking, no sex and no knife-wielding roommates in the two-hour premiere airing 8 p.m. EDT July 28.

But there are bikinis, they’re scanty and they’re worn by the Amish women.

“Oh, my, really?” said Amish cultural historian Joseph Yoder after hearing a description of the program.

Not something they typically wear?

“Heavens, no, not in public,” he replied.

Yoder is concerned the series will live down to his expectations and justify the protests he lodged as director of Menno-Hof, an Amish and Mennonite center in Shipshewana, Ind. Other groups and political leaders criticized plans for “Amish in the City.”

“Our concerns were that Hollywood would probably get it wrong with the

Amish, and just the whole thing of televising the Amish and putting Amish people on TV,” Yoder said. “They don’t even believe in this kind of thing; they’re trying to stay separated from the world.”

Not the two women and three men from Midwestern Amish communities featured on the series, which is billed by its producers as a coming-of-age saga. They include (identified only by first names) Jonas, an Iowa native; Miriam and Ruth, both of Ohio; Mose of Wisconsin and Randy of Indiana, all between 18 and 24.

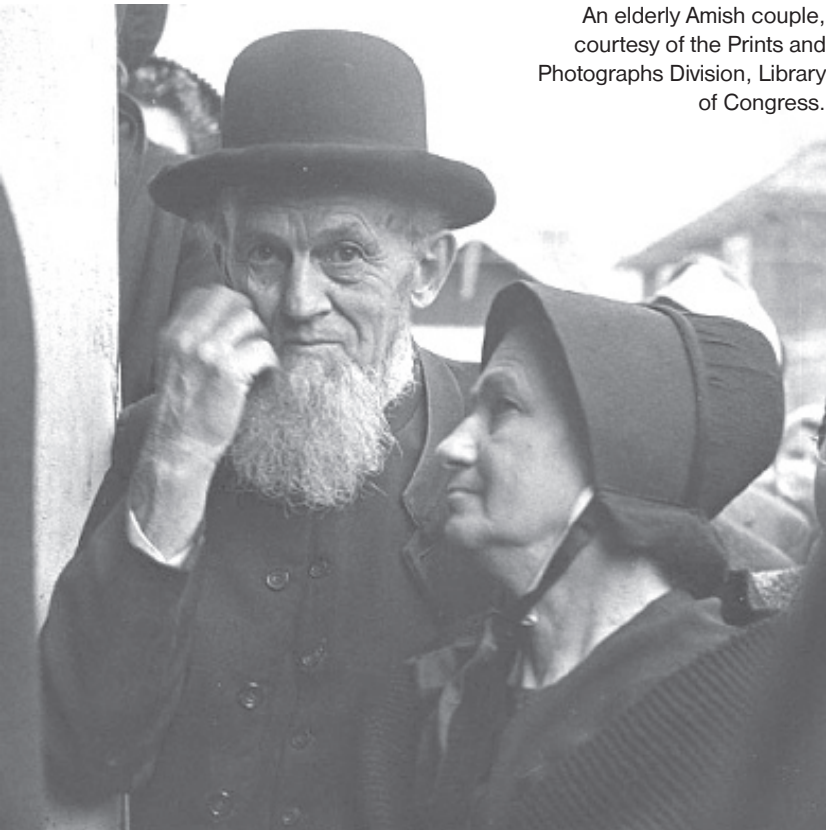
Members of the Amish sect, concentrated in rural Pennsylvania, Indiana and Ohio, are known for simple attire and avoiding most technology. But at age 16 they’re allowed to break free of their strict code before deciding whether they want to be baptized as adults.

During the period of “rumspringa,” a Pennsylvania Dutch term that means “running around,” youths often date, drink, drive cars and move away from home. Most then return to the faith.

Most don’t roam as far as Los Angeles and have their adventures filmed by a TV network. But the series’ intent is not to typecast or offend the Amish, said one producer, Daniel Laikind.

“We certainly went in with an attitude that this was about the individual people and individual journeys that were going on,” Laikind said. “We’re not trying to say the five participants who grew up Amish are representative of every Amish person in existence.”

He and Steven Cantor produced an acclaimed documentary about Amish



An elderly Amish couple, courtesy of the Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress.

teenagers, “Devil’s Playground.” Laikind, Cantor and Jon Kroll (“Big Brother,” “The Amazing Race”) are executive producers on the TV show.

UPN, which quietly pursued the program despite criticism, defends the result.

Network entertainment chief Dawn Ostroff pronounced “Amish in the City” of “great quality” before screening the initial episodes for the Television Critics Association on Tuesday.

“We learn a lot about human nature.”

For the Amish, exposure to the sights and sounds of urban California life is mostly exhilarating to young people who have lived without electricity and other modern elements.

“If I’m going to go out and explore I’m going to go all the way,” says Mose after putting on a hip new wardrobe picked out by the “city kids,” the non-Amish roommates.

Ruth marvels at paintings in a gal-

lery; such art, she says, isn’t part of Amish life. Even the most mundane aspects of the city, including parking meters, can stop the L.A. newcomers in their tracks.

The challenge to their emotional and religious core isn’t ignored. After a perilous first attempt at ocean swimming, the already baptized Mose fears for his soul outside the Amish community and seeks solace in the Bible.

If the Amish are treated gently, their roommates aren’t so lucky. Turns out they needed protection from TV scrutiny.

Ariel, a Los Angeles waitress and vegan who seems to be channeling Jessica Simpson, confronts her housemates about their eating habits. Eggs are “chicken abortions,” she informs them, dairy products are “cow pus” and cattle likely are space aliens.

Hollywood club promoter Reese and salesman Kevan demonstrate their maturity with a brief tussle that includes a sock used as a weapon. Ariel sensitively pronounces herself “a sexy little Amish girl” when she and the other city kids are instructed to wear traditional Amish clothing.

U.S. Rep. Joe Pitts of Pennsylvania was among 51 lawmakers who signed a letter asking UPN to abandon the project. “No matter how they do the show, the fact they’re doing it is abhorrent to the Amish,” he said.

Pitts’ request for an early screening was rejected by UPN, as was that of a UPN affiliate in Pennsylvania which said it worried the show could be exploitative.

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addendum

club jama

# Fired 'CSI' actor denies salary holdout

By LYNN ELBER  
AP TELEVISION WRITER

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Fired “CSI: Crime Scene Investigation” actor George Eads says he wasn’t staging a salary holdout when he missed work—he overslept. He hoped what he called a “big misunderstanding” with CBS and its chief, Leslie Moonves, will be resolved by the end of the week and he will be back to work on the hit drama, Eads said Wednesday.

“Yeah, definitely, I look forward to going back,” he told a Television Critics Association meeting. He was on hand to publicize his upcoming TV movie “Evel Knievel,” airing July 30 on TNT.

Eads and “CSI” co-star Jorja Fox were dumped by CBS last week after failing to show up for the start of production on the upcoming fifth season. The network said they had demanded raises beyond their contracts.

The actors reportedly were making \$100,000 per episode for the series, which airs about 24 episodes a season.

CBS had no immediate comment on Eads’ remarks, network spokesman Chris Ender said Wednesday. A call to Fox’s publicist was not immediately returned.

“They think it’s about money and it’s not,” Eads said. “I overslept. ... I woke up white as a sheet 3 1/2 hours after I was supposed to be on the set.”



CSI: Crime Scene Investigation cast members Jorja Fox, left, and George Eads embrace on their way into a Vanity Fair party in Las Vegas in this Dec. 14, 2003 file photo.

## P. Diddy launches group for youth vote

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Trendsetters, fashionistas, rappers—P. Diddy wants you. Specifically, he’s looking for the “sexy people” to help him entice young people and minorities to vote in the presidential election, as part of his new nonpartisan voting initiative called Citizen Change.

“Now we’re going to make voting cool,” the hip-hop mogul/Broadway actor/marathon runner/fashion designer/perpetual A-list-er proclaimed as he trotted out fresh young faces, supermodels and even Democratic strategist James Carville at an event to begin his drive.

“For the first time in history, we’re going to make voting fashionable,” he said.

Of course, this hardly is the first time a celebrity has been involved in politics, or that rockers or rappers have tried to get out the vote. In recent years, Rock The Vote has enlisted stars including Madonna to appearing in public service announcements urging young people to vote, while MTV and BET have had campaigns to increase voter registration. And another hip-hop mogul, Russell Simmons, has had his Hip-Hop Summit Action Network hold several gatherings in cities across the nation to register voters.

“I think that Rock the Vote and the Hip-Hop Summit Action Network has given birth to this organization,” said P. Diddy.

“(But) I wanted to launch a new energy at a new time.”

Citizen Change plans to link up with MTV, BET, Clear Channel and other media outlets to increase voter awareness, and P. Diddy said there will be registration drives on college campuses and education initiatives to make people more aware of the election and the issues.

The organization will hold functions tied to both the Democratic and Republican conventions. P. Diddy also said both President Bush and Democratic challenger John Kerry will be invited to participate in Citizen Change events.

“It will be equal, 50-50,” P. Diddy said.

P. Diddy already has enlisted stars Ben Affleck, Leonardo DiCaprio, Mariah Carey, Mary J. Blige for the effort, and labels such as Ecko, Phat Farm, and his own Sean John have been tapped to create clothing featuring the initiative’s motto—“Vote or Die!”—which Diddy himself wore at the news conference.

But it wasn’t all serious.

Models Tyson Beckford and Lucas provided eye candy as they modeled the T-shirts, and P. Diddy provided plenty of levity.

When he said the group would charter a jet to travel to swing states to make an impact, he added: “We will have mimosas on the jet. We’re going to have the sexiest jet!”

He called in, said he was on his way and was told, “Don’t bother,” Eads said. The Texas native compared himself to a football star who makes a similar error.

“It’s like I’m the quarterback with the Dallas Cowboys and I overslept the first day of practice,” he said. “I’d expect the coach to have me run hills and run wind sprints until the sun goes down, not you know, completely fire me.”

Asked if CBS had sought an apology from him, he replied: “Let me tell you, I’ve apologized nine ways to Sunday. It’s a big misunderstanding, straight up.”

“I want all this to work out. ‘CSI’ is a part of who I am,” Eads said.

Eads said he wants to speak with Moonves to resolve the issue but had yet to reach him. He compared getting hold of Moonves, a top executive with CBS parent company Viacom, to reaching the mysterious Charlie in “Charlie’s Angels.”

“If after I’ve spoken to him from my heart he knows exactly what the situation is, he’s the boss. It’s still up to him.”

At a session last Sunday with the TV critics, Moonves called the firings a fair business decision.

“There comes a point where we feel a contract is a contract. ... We all have to look out for the future of the network television business,” said Moonves, co-president and co-chief operating officer of Viacom.

Eads echoed those comments Wednesday, saying he agreed “a contract is a contract.”

## A cutoff for jeans? No way

I have nothing against the fashion police.

If you were to go through my wardrobe, you might think I might, but I don’t.

So it’s nothing personal when I say that people who push fashion trends are totally clueless.

Let me give you an example:

There is a men’s clothing store in New Jersey that carries lines of pants called “The Editor” and “The Correspondent.”

Now, unless these pants come pre-wrinkled and coffee-stained, I’m willing to bet, sight unseen, they in no way resemble the pants editors and correspondents ever have or ever will wear.

Trust me on this. The average newsroom is inhabited by slow-moving piles of unironed laundry that apparently have the ability to type.

They are not populated by anyone you would name trousers after, unless the end of civilization as we know it is at hand.

Let me give you another example:

According to a recent article, the fashion police now believe you should give up wearing jeans once you hit a certain age.

If you fail to do this, they say, one day you will be looking cool in your faded jeans, and the next day your faded jeans will be making you look older than that billionaire guy Anna Nicole married.

This jeans deadline was news to me, although I admit I’ve never thought much about an attire cutoff point.

Sure, I envisioned white shoes and a matching belt from time to time, but only when I fantasized about working as a senior-circuit Chippendale dancer.

(I apologize for that mental picture. It even made me a little queasy.)

Anyway, if you can’t wear your jeans, and you don’t want to go Miami Beach, what are you supposed to do? Dress young? No, thank you.

I for one have no interest in baggy low-rider drawers that are designed to flash plumber-quality cleavage every time you bend over.

Besides, I’m not so sure I even buy into the premise that there comes a magical moment when your trusty old duds turn on you.

I’ve always believed that the top three things that age a person were:

Gravity.

Dessert.

And a devil-may-care attitude toward ear hair.

What you wear is way down on the list, below even how long you leave your turn signal on.

Here is what I have to say to the fashion police:

You want to impose a little fashion control, fine.

You want to outlaw, for instance, thongs on people over 60, maybe I can go along.

But the only way you are going to take away my faded old jeans is to pry them off my cold dead cheeks.

Call that my bottom line.

By JIM SHEA  
The Hartford  
Courant



wallace

# 'Mr. Big' greets fans in Israel

**JERUSALEM** (AP)—Chris Noth, who played Mr. Big on HBO's "Sex and the City," greeted fans in Israel at Judaism's holiest site, the Western Wall in the Old City of Jerusalem.

Noth is on a 10-day tour of Israel, sponsored by the Israeli Tourism Ministry. He also filmed a commercial Monday for a brand of Israeli deodorant.

"I feel great solidarity, as a New Yorker, being here in Israel," the actor told reporters Tuesday. "I hope to show Americans that they should come here."

Incoming Tourism Minister Gideon Ezra presented Noth with a certificate of appreciation.



Noth

"This visit is very important to us," Ezra told The Associated Press. "Many celebrities have come to Israel, and we take very good care of our visitors."

"Sex and the City," starring Sarah Jessica Parker, was shown on a local TV channel and gained wide popularity among Israelis. Noth played one of Parker's boyfriends on the show, which ran for six seasons.

Earlier this year, Madonna canceled three Israeli stops on her Re-Invention tour because of violence in the region.

Noth dismissed the dangers of visiting Israel as "nonsense."

He recently finished filming a new movie, "The Perfect Man."

## Raitt dedicates 'About to End' to Bush

**STOCKHOLM, Sweden** (AP)—Winding up her summer tour across Europe, Bonnie Raitt drew thunderous applause at the Stockholm Jazz Festival for dedicating a classic to President George Bush.

"We're gonna sing this for George Bush because he's out of here, people!" Raitt crowed Tuesday night before she launched into the opening licks of "Your Good Thing (Is About to End)," a cover that was featured on her 1979 album, "The Glow."

The song, written by Isaac Hayes and David Porter, has been sung by several notable performers, including Mable John and Lou Rawls.

Raitt's comments resulted in a round of applause and even whistles from among the estimated 3,000 concertgoers at the Swedish capital's annual jazz event held on the banks of the downtown Skeppsholmen island.

Swedes are skeptical of Bush, and the Scandinavian country refused to support his efforts in the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 2003.

The Grammy-winning singer is no stranger to political activism. Her Web site urges fans to learn more about preserving the environment and she was a founding member of MUSE, or Musicians United for Save Energy.



Bonnie Raitt performs on stage at the Live at Sunset Festival in Zurich, Switzerland, on Friday, July, 16, 2004.

## Electric Prunes sue for music royalties

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Two members of the 1960s rock band Electric Prunes sued their record label and a company that published their songs, alleging in two separate lawsuits the companies failed to pay them royalties totaling \$1 million.

Bass player Mark Tulin filed the lawsuit Monday in Superior Court against Damo Productions Inc., which the lawsuit alleges recorded albums for the rock band.

Tulin and lead singer James Lowe, of Santa Ynez, also filed a separate lawsuit Monday against Newcomer Music Publishing Co., which the lawsuit alleges published the band's songs.

Tulin and Lowe were representing themselves in the two lawsuits, each asking for \$500,000 in damages.

Damo and Newcomer officials could not be located for comment Tuesday.

The companies' business licenses were suspended in the late 1960s, according to the California Secretary of State.

In the lawsuit against Damo, Tulin alleges the company owes him royalties from album sales based on a 1966 written contract.

## Trump to build casino in French Lick

**FRENCH LICK, Ind.** (AP)—Donald Trump bested two casino groups—including one backed by hometown hero Larry Bird—for the bid to build a casino in this struggling community where movie stars once vacationed.

The State Gaming Commission awarded the contract to Trump on Tuesday, at the end of two days of public hearings. Commissioners said the

billionaire developer had been unanimously endorsed by a local committee in the southern Indiana community about 60 miles northwest of Louisville, Ky.

Trump promised to open the casino by the end of 2005 and give \$10 million to the French Lick Springs Resort & Hotel and the West Baden Springs Hotel for restoration.



Trump

Trump's casino proposal includes a deli, a buffet and an entertainment lounge. Trump has the added draw of Indiana golfer Fuzzy Zoeller as a partner.

The casino is to be built next to the French Lick resort, one of two in the area popular with celebrities before the 1929 stock market crash.

The commissioners said they weren't as impressed by the offer made by a group that includes Bird, the president of the Indiana Pacers.

## Clear Channel sues Stern distributor

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Clear Channel Communications, the nation's largest chain of radio stations, sued Howard Stern's distributor Wednesday for \$3 million, accusing the shock jock of refusing to heed federal indecency rules.

Earlier this year, Clear Channel dropped Stern from six markets, including San Diego and Pittsburgh, after federal regulators complained about his raunchy humor. Stern and his distributor, Infinity Broadcasting Corp., responded by suing Clear Channel for \$10 million.

On Wednesday, Clear Channel answered with a lawsuit of its own against Infinity.

Andy Levin, chief legal officer for Clear Channel, said the show was pulled because Stern and Infinity would not promise that the show would "conform to the law."

"We simply weren't willing to put the future of our radio station licenses in the hands of Mr. Stern or Infinity," Levin said in a statement. "Fortunately, our contract doesn't require us to do that."

A Stern company, One Twelve Inc., was also named in

the Clear Channel lawsuit.

A Stern spokesman did not immediately return a call for comment. A spokeswoman for Infinity declined to comment.

San Antonio-based Clear Channel has agreed to a \$1.75 million settlement with the Federal Communications Commission to resolve indecency complaints against Stern and other radio personalities.

Last month, Stern announced his show would go on the air in nine new markets owned by Infinity, including four where Clear Channel stations dropped it.

## Man in no hurry to part with his mother's ashes

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband, "Ned," lost his mother suddenly at the age of 54. Her wishes were to be cremated and have her remains scattered in the Arizona desert. It hasn't happened yet.

Her remains started out on the bookcase headboard of our bed. I finally moved them to the living room in front of the fireplace. One day, I returned home from work and, once again, the remains had been put back in our bedroom—this time on the nightstand next to our bed.

Abby, our 10-year-old son was extremely close to his grandmother. They adored each other. To this day, he talks to the urn as if it is his grandmother. In addition, the remains did not all fit into the urn, so a second box was sent along with the urn. With time, the box has separated and started to leak.

I think it's unhealthy to continue to have the remains in the house, and I also feel it's disrespectful to my mother-in-law. How can you be firm and loving at the same time? How should I bring this up without putting my foot in my mouth?

WOEFUL IN INDIANA

**DEAR WOEFUL:** It appears your husband is having a difficult time letting go. I recommend you sweep up the cremains that have leaked out of the box and place them in a baggie. When your husband is in a relaxed, and hopefully receptive, mood give it to him and tell him that his mother had asked that her cremains be scattered in Arizona—not the bedroom. If he can't bring himself to do that, perhaps he would compromise by agreeing to keep them elsewhere than your bedroom. Your having moved them should have been hint enough that their presence made you uncomfortable.

It is not unheard of for survivors to keep the cremains of loved ones with them—and the subject has appeared before in my column. However, since it makes you uncomfortable, you should not have to sleep with his mother.

**DEAR ABBY:** I am being married soon. My sister, "Alice," promised to help me with the last-minute details. However, yesterday Alice called to inform me—with regrets—that she'll be on vacation with her husband at the time my wedding is scheduled, so she won't be able to help me after all. I am upset to say the least. I have no bridesmaids to help me, and I was counting on her.

Alice is very sensitive, so I'm afraid to say anything to her. Am I wrong to be upset? What should I tell my friends when they ask about her? Is there anything I can say to my sister or my guests that will go over well?

HURT IN HOUSTON

**DEAR HURT:** Tell your "sensitive" sister that you are disappointed that she won't be there to share your happiness (it's the truth), and that she'll be missed (it's also true because her absence will be noticed), and that you'll manage without her (because you will).

Then ask a couple of close friends to help you. If the "last-minute details" are shared, they shouldn't be too much of a burden for anyone. Should your guests inquire about your sister's whereabouts, be truthful and let them draw their own conclusions. Her failure to attend is not a reflection on you.

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

*Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$10 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)*







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# Pastimes

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# Kupchak: Re-signing Bryant not sure thing

By CHRIS SHERIDAN  
AP BASKETBALL WRITER



Never again will Shaquille O'Neal wear gold and purple. And if that wasn't stunning enough, consider the idea of Kobe Bryant clad in red. "We have no idea whether Kobe will come back," Lakers general manager Mitch Kupchak acknowledged Wednesday after completing the trade that sent O'Neal to Miami. "We're hopeful that he'll re-sign, but we don't even know that."

Wasn't it just recently that the Lakers were being called—rightly or wrongly—a dynasty? A better term these days might be train wreck.

Another chapter in the disassembly of that so-called dynasty was completed Wednesday, the NBA office giving final approval to the deal sending O'Neal to Miami for Lamar Odom, Caron Butler, Brian Grant and a future No. 1 draft pick.

"The Eastern Conference, outside of Jermaine O'Neal, it's not going to be that difficult to me. So I look forward to it," Shaq said.

The plot line and the date of the next chapter of "As the Lakers Unfurl" will become known soon, though no one—except perhaps the publicly silent Bryant—is certain exactly when.

By trading Melvin Ely and Eddie House to Charlotte for two second-round draft picks, the Clippers have cleared enough salary cap space to offer Bryant a maximum-salary contract of about \$100 million over six years.

The Lakers can offer Bryant a seventh season in a package worth an additional \$30 million, but whatever contract Bryant

signs will presumably have an opt-out clause after the fifth season—making the financial value of the two offers much more comparable.

"My guess at this hour is we've done everything we can do," said Kupchak, who reiterated what he said earlier this summer—that the Lakers will not consider any sign-and-trade deals for Bryant.

"I'm hopeful that he'll make a decision sooner rather than later," Kupchak said. "I don't know if it will be tomorrow. I don't know if it will be Friday. I don't know if it will be next week. If he chooses to take time, he'll take time."

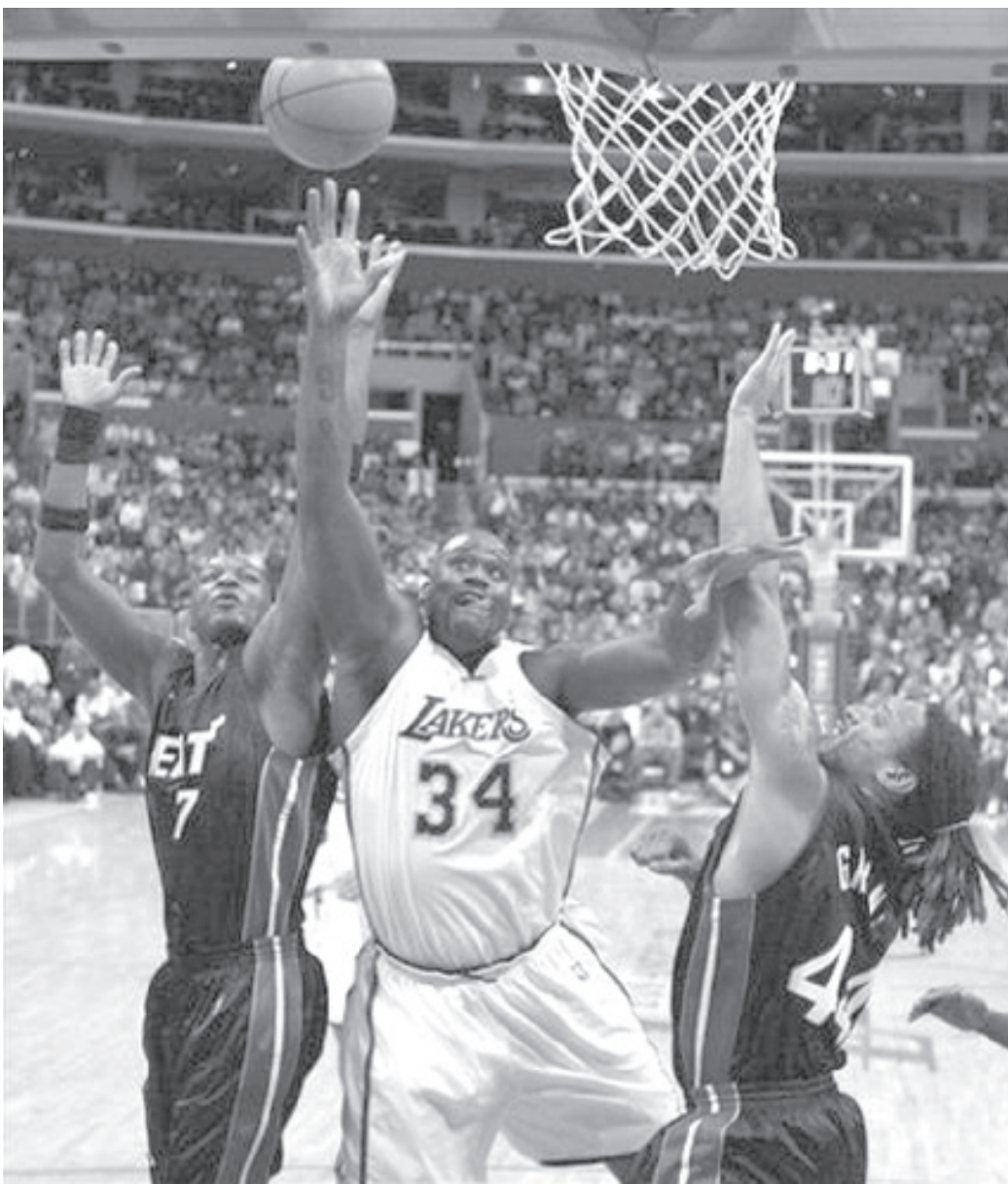
Elsewhere around the league, Rasheed Wallace continued to negotiate with the NBA champion Detroit Pistons, and Erick Dampier was stalling on accepting lucrative offers from Atlanta and Denver in the hope that the New York Knicks would be able to acquire him from Golden State.

One factor working in the Knicks' favor was their willingness to take on Evan Eschmeyer's bloated contract, and there were several multi-team trade possibilities being discussed, an NBA source told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

A number of previously agreed upon free agent deals were signed Wednesday, the first day in two weeks that trades could be made and free agents could sign with new teams.

The only signings not previously reported were minor ones—center Jason Collier joining the Atlanta Hawks, and forward Tamar Slay and guard Jason Hart joining the Bobcats.

The Denver Nuggets and New Jersey Nets continued to discuss trade scenarios involving forward Kenyon Martin, while Vlade



Los Angeles Lakers' Shaquille O'Neal drives to the basket between Miami Heat's Lamar Odom, left and Brian Grant during the first half at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, in this Nov. 16, 2003 photo.

Divac pondered returning to one of his former teams, the Lakers, rather than taking less money from his current team, the Sacramento Kings.

Also, incoming Raptors general manager Rob Babcock reiterated his desire not to trade Vince Carter, but he was vague when asked if Carter's agent, Mark Steinberg, had requested a trade.

"My preference is to have Vince here, but that's up to Vince more than it is up to us," Babcock said.

But by far the biggest news of the day was the blockbuster sending O'Neal to South Florida. It is one of the few times in league history that a dominant center near the peak of his career has been dealt.

"We feel that we have traded for the best player in the NBA," Heat president Pat Riley said, adding that ticket sales for the upcoming season have been brisk. "Over at the business office of the American Airlines Arena, it's like being on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange right now. It's absolutely a frenzy."

## Bryant judge bars medical exam evidence

By COLLEEN SLEVIN  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

**DENVER** (AP)—The judge in the Kobe Bryant sexual assault case on Wednesday barred evidence from a medical exam performed on the NBA star, saying investigators didn't have the proper court order to take him to the hospital in the middle of the night.

District Judge Terry Ruckriegle also rejected prosecutors' claims that Bryant had consented to the exam, saying investigators had officially taken him into custody by then.

The judge did deny a defense request to throw out a 75-minute interview of Bryant by detectives and evidence including a T-shirt stained with the alleged victim's blood. Bryant's attorneys said the material was gathered while he was illegally in custody, but the judge disagreed.

Ruckriegle said Bryant will-

ingly talked to the detectives and gave them some of his clothing.

"There was no evidence of any coercion or undue influence put upon Mr. Bryant to either speak to them or to provide the items from his room," Ruckriegle said.

"We're pleased with the ruling and we consider it an important ruling," prosecution spokeswoman Krista Flannigan said. She did not specifically comment on losing the evidence from the medical exam.

After-hours calls left with Bryant's Denver-based defense team were not immediately returned.

Bryant, 25, has pleaded not guilty to felony sexual assault and faces an Aug. 27 trial. He has said he had consensual sex with a front desk worker, now 20, at the Vail-area resort where she worked last summer.

If convicted, Bryant faces four years to life in prison or 20

years to life on probation, and a fine of up to \$750,000.

Bryant's attorneys have long criticized the Eagle County sheriff's office, saying investigators improperly questioned Bryant and botched the execution of a court order to gather evidence last July.

Prosecutors had argued in favor of submitting the medical exam and the rest of the evidence, saying that it was collected with Bryant's consent the night after the alleged attack.

During a hearing in February, lead investigator Doug Winters acknowledged that Bryant's hospital examination violated Colorado court rules.

Winters and his partner had obtained a type of warrant for "non-testimonial evidence," which usually involves taking samples of hair and fibers. It must be executed during daylight hours to prevent the government from unnecessarily

invading the privacy of citizens. With the departure of three starters, Riley will build his team around O'Neal, Olympian Dwyane Wade and Eddie Jones, Miami's leading scorer each of the last four seasons.

The Heat will now shop for help at both forward positions and backup point guard, and free agents will likely consider Miami a more appealing option with the addition of O'Neal.

"Everybody wants to be here now," said Jones, who played with O'Neal in Los Angeles from 1996 to 1998.

Whether Bryant wants to remain with the Lakers remained the league's biggest mystery.

Kupchak and new Lakers coach Rudy Tomjanovich met with Bryant on Monday night, as did Clippers officials.

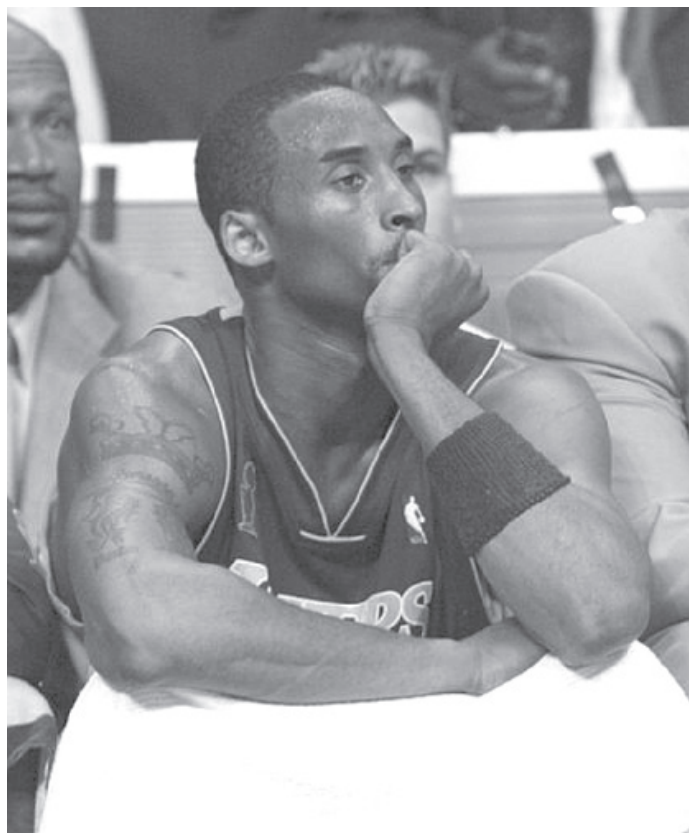
"The meeting went well. I don't have a better feel what he may or may not do," Kupchak said. "Do we have a replacement player in place? No, we don't. You can't replace a Kobe Bryant."

Bryant, who turns 26 next month, joined the Lakers in 1996—the same year O'Neal was signed as a free agent. He goes on trial later this summer in Colorado for felony sexual assault, and a conviction in the courtroom would render moot any decision he makes about where to spend the next five-plus years.

The pair feuded at times, but as one of the top 1-2 punches in NBA history they led the Lakers to three championships (2000-2002) and a berth in the finals this year, where they lost to the Detroit Pistons in five games.

Now, one superstar is gone and the other may be out the door soon.

"Kobe's a free agent," Kupchak said. "There exists the possibility we'll get nothing (if he leaves)."



Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant watches the closing minutes from the bench in Game 5 of the NBA Finals at the Palace of Auburn Hills, Mich., Tuesday, June 15, 2004.

# Virenque wins 10th Tour de France stage



Richard Virenque of France is cheered by spectators as he climbs the Col du Puy Marie mountain pass to win the 10th stage of the Tour de France cycling race between Limoges and Saint-Flour, central France, Wednesday, July 14, 2004.

By **JOHN LEICESTER**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

**SAINT-  
FLOUR,  
France**  
(AP)—Seven

seconds. That may not seem like much, but in the Tour de France, the advantage Lance Armstrong gained over two rivals Wednesday could be an important step in the Texan's bid for a record sixth straight crown.

At a minimum, Armstrong struck a psychological blow by showing his 32-year-old legs still have enough zip after the Tour's longest stage to outshine Tyler Hamilton and Roberto Heras—former teammates raring to dethrone him. But Armstrong's main rival, Jan Ullrich, was able to keep up.

The German, a Tour winner in 1997 and five-time runner-up, stayed with Armstrong in a sprint to the finish of the first mountain stage. They ended up with the same time.

The glory on Bastille Day went to Frenchman Richard Virenque, who took his seventh stage victory of a spotted career with a strong solo ride, and French champion Thomas Voeckler, who retained the overall lead.

Armstrong still trails Voeckler by 9 minutes and 35 seconds. The 25-year-old Frenchman displayed his resilience by riding

toward the front of main pack for much of the 147-mile trek from Limoges and by outsprinting Armstrong at the finish.

Voeckler placed fifth, Armstrong sixth and Ullrich 15th—the last in a group of 14 riders who finished together 5 minutes and 19 seconds behind Virenque's mark of 6 hours and 24 seconds. Other Armstrong rivals Ivan Basso and Iban Mayo also finished in that bunch.

Armstrong's burst of speed on the uphill finish was to ensure that riders with him didn't open up a gap and gain time. In doing so, he left Hamilton and Heras trailing in a second group of 36 riders who finished seven seconds back.

If the Tour is close, that time may prove precious. The 101-year-old race's narrowest winning margin remains American Greg Lemond's defeat of Frenchman Laurent Fignon in 1989. Last year, Armstrong beat Ullrich by just 61 seconds.

"Remember Fignon? He lost by eight seconds. It can be important," said Johan Bruyneel, sports director of Armstrong's U.S. Postal Service team.

Overall, Armstrong extended his advantage over Hamilton to 43 seconds and over Heras to 1 minute, 52 seconds. Ullrich remained 55 seconds behind Armstrong.

Hamilton's team manager

Urs Freuler said the 33-year-old from Marblehead, Mass., was poorly positioned in the final stretch, "which is why a few seconds were lost."

In a preview of their expected duels to come in the harder Pyrenees and Alps, Armstrong and Ullrich led the main pack up the hardest of nine climbs Wednesday—a 3.5-mile ascent of Le Puy Mary, in the Massif Central region of central France.

While the climb and the stage were the hardest so far, Bruyneel said it was too early to tell whether the Texan is stronger than his challengers.

Armstrong "looked good and sounded good on the radio," Bruyneel said. "It was a hard climb ... but still very far from the finish of the race, so we can't really know now who is good and bad."

Armstrong was one of five riders called for a doping test after the stage and did not talk to reporters.

Virenque's escape took the darling of French cycling fans a step closer to his goal: to become the first seven-time winner of the polka dot jersey as best climber.

Despite his involvement in a 1998 doping scandal, Moroccan-born Virenque is admired for his climbing panache and was cheered on by hundreds of thousands of people lining the route.

He became the 14th Frenchman since World War II to win on Bastille Day and the first since Laurent Jalabert in 2001.

A teary Virenque dedicated his win to a friend who died two days earlier and his grandmother who died in June. He said their memory drove him on.

"It's fabulous, I was at the end of my strength," he said. "I had cramps everywhere."

Virenque and Axel Merckx, the son of five-time Tour champion Eddy Merckx, surged ahead of the main pack at the 22-mile mark and built a lead of more than 10 minutes.

But Virenque overtook the Belgian rider on the 5,897-foot-high Le Puy Mary. In all, he rode for 125 miles ahead of the pack and alone over the last 40 miles to the finish in Saint-Flour. He thrust his arms into the air at the line, pointing to the sky. Merckx, drained, placed 71st, 6 minutes and 18 seconds behind.

At 34, Virenque is approaching the end of a career that could see him hailed as the Tour's best-ever climber. He currently is tied with Spanish rider Federico Bahamontes and Belgian Lucien Van Impe with six mountain titles.

But Virenque also was a member of the Festina squad ejected from the 1998 Tour after customs officers found banned drugs in a team car.

## Astros fire Williams after three seasons



**HOUSTON (AP)**—The Houston Astros made it clear they're making one final push for the post-season, firing manager Jimmy Williams Wednesday and bringing in Phil Garner.

A season that began with World Series aspirations for the Astros has been slipping away, so general manager Gerry Hunsicker wanted an immediate and "dramatic" change.

"There's a cloud that hung over our team for so long," he said. "Time is of the essence. We can't waste too much time here."

Garner, a former Astros player, is taking over on an interim basis. The team will conduct another search at the end of the season.

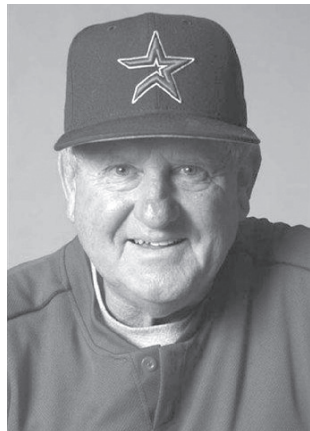
"I'm excited. I'm a Houston boy and I'm looking forward to it," Garner, a former manager with Detroit and Milwaukee, told The Associated Press in a phone interview. "We got some boys on the team that I think can do something really special. This is an opportunity that I've been waiting for."

Williams' job security had been the subject of speculation for about a month, right about the time Houston's surprising slide down the NL Central standings began. He was fired during a clubhouse meeting with Hunsicker, owner Drayton McLane and other team officials.

"He indicated that he was not surprised," McLane said. "He knew something wasn't clicking."

The season began with expectations of the club's first World Series appearance in its 42-year history after the offseason acquisition of former New York Yankees teammates Andy Pettitte and Roger Clemens.

But Houston was 44-44 heading into the All-Star break, a remarkable disappointment for a team that was tops in the NL Central for the first month and a half of the season.



The Houston Astros fired manager Jimmy Williams, shown in this 2004 season photo, and replaced him with Phil Garner on Wednesday July 14, 2004, a last-ditch effort to rescue a season that started with World Series expectations.

**LONG BEACH, Calif.**

(AP)—Jenny Thompson won the 50-meter freestyle at the U.S. Olympic swimming trials on Wednesday, giving her a second individual event at the Athens Games. She also qualified in the 100 butterfly.

The 31-year-old Thompson was slowest off the block but caught the field during a furious dash to the opposite wall. She won in 25.02 seconds, while Kara Lynn Joyce finished second (25.11) to also claim a second individual spot on the Olympic team.

Thompson will be just the second American swimmer to take part in four Olympics. She has won 10 medals—more than any other woman—but but her eight golds have all been in relays.

Individually, Thompson has been limited to a silver and a bronze, both in the 100 free. She failed to qualify for that event at these trials—Joyce was the upset winner—and conceded that her medal chances in the 50 weren't that strong.

Thompson's winning time was only the eighth-fastest in the world this year.

"Although my 100 free was not what I wanted it to be, I know I can be a lot faster in Athens," she said.

Thompson considered retirement after the 2000 Sydney Games, but decided to come back for one more Olympics.



Jenny Thompson looks back after her win in the Women's 50-meter freestyle final at the U.S. Olympic swim trials in Long Beach, Calif., Wednesday, July 14, 2004. Thompson won with a time of 25.02.

She had to cope with the death of her mother, who succumbed to cancer in February after being a major force in Thompson's swimming career.

Through it all, she insists that she didn't come back to win an Olympic gold.

"It's not what is motivating me," she said. "I just want to end my career on a really positive note."

Thompson said she would be honored to be the swimming team captain, a role that already has spurred lobbying by three-time Olympian Gary Hall Jr.

Larsen Jensen closed a record-breaking meet in appropriate fashion: setting a new American mark in the 1,500 freestyle. He became just the third U.S. man to go under 15 minutes at 14:56.71, overcoming the mark

of 14:56.81 that earned Chris Thompson a bronze medal at the 2000 Olympics.

The 18-year-old Jensen is a rising star of distance swimming, though he'll have his work cut out for him in Athens. The Australians, led by Grant Hackett, have long ruled the longest event in swimming.

"I'm looking forward to racing Grant Hackett in Athens," said Jensen, who already had qualified to swim the 400 free in Athens. "I wasn't sure I was going to be able to finish it. I was hurting so bad."

Erik Vendt claimed the second spot in the 1,500 at 15:11.96. Chris Thompson got into the final because another swimmer scratched but finished far back in seventh at 15:44.57. He

didn't have time to prepare after fracturing both elbows during a May training mishap.

Natalie Coughlin, swimming in the 50 after qualifying in two other events, finished sixth at 25.31. She was swimming the sprint just for fun, figuring it might help her preparations for the 100 freestyle.

"I'm very happy," Coughlin said. "I had three best times in 1 1/2 days and I learned a lot of good things for my 100 free."

Six world records were set during the meet, boding well for American hopes of another big medal haul in Athens. Four years ago, the U.S. team led all nations with 14 golds and 33 medals overall.

Earlier Wednesday, Michael Phelps announced that he would give up one of his individual spots on the Olympic team, the 200 backstroke. He qualified in five other events and, combined with the relays, hopes to equal or break Mark Spitz's record of seven gold medals.

Phelps' decision put Bryce Hunt on the Olympic team. He finished third at the trials behind Aaron Peirsol, who broke his own world record, and Phelps.

"I'm pretty excited," said Hunt, who made his first Olympic team. "People were telling me that he might drop out of the 200 backstroke, but I didn't think it was going to happen. I just hope I can bring back a medal."

# Woods aims to regain form at British Open

By **TIM DAHLBERG**  
AP SPORTS COLUMNIST

**TROON, Scotland (AP)**—Tiger Woods has been hitting fairways this week, and his caddie, Steve Williams, hasn't been hitting anyone.

The British Open doesn't start until Thursday, of course, and things can change just as quickly as the quirky weather off the coast of west Scotland. Woods doesn't need to be reminded of that.

The last time the British Open was held in Scotland, he was not only an overwhelming favorite, but British bookies also fancied him to finish off the Grand Slam that year.

Incredibly, just two years later, he's not even the pick to win this week at Royal Troon. That honor would go to Ernie Els, who just a short time ago seemed baffled by the idea he could actually beat Woods when it really mattered.

Now, it seems, anyone—and that really means anyone—can beat Woods. Eight players have won major championships since he took the U.S. Open at Bethpage, N.Y., in 2002.

With each wayward drive, Woods sinks a little bit more toward mediocrity. The mystique is gone, and so is the intimidation other players used to feel every time he stuck a tee in the ground.

"Pure and simple, he can't drive the ball in the fairway," Nick Price said. "From all I've seen now the last five months, his off-the-tee game is so erratic, and there's no pattern to it because he's losing it right and left. Until such time as he starts getting the ball in the fairway, he's going to struggle.

"You have to be a great driver of the ball to win major championships."

Indeed you do, and Woods once was. Which, of course, brings us to the question of what Woods has been doing to become that great driver again.

Well, he's got a new driver for one, a big fat graphite shafted Nike that's just the type he once



Tiger Woods is seen during practice for the British Open at Royal Troon golf course in Troon, Scotland Wednesday July 14, 2004. The British Open is scheduled to start on Thursday July 15.

AP

scorned. He's longer than ever, but length has never been a problem for Woods.

Presumably he's been out practicing with it, though you might wonder where he's getting the time. He's got a fiancée and an increasing number of business interests and recreational pursuits away from golf.

Some of those are in Las Vegas, where Butch Harmon, his former swing guru, teaches. Woods' visits, though, have nothing to do with getting instruction from his estranged coach.

Last month he jetted there for a few days of gambling after finishing well off the pace at the U.S. Open. And just hours after he finished his final round at the Western Open near Chicago, he was spotted partying at a posh casino nightclub.

Coincidence? Maybe. Woods, like anyone else, has the right to blow off steam. He's certainly earned it after bearing the many responsibilities that came with being Tiger Woods over the last few years.

But Woods became great because of his singular focus on his golf game, as his father, Earl Woods, would be more than willing

to tell you. He became great by constant hours of practicing to come up with a short game as great as the shots he could seemingly manufacture at will off the tee.

Whether the same focus is still there is hard to figure out. Woods doesn't let anyone inside his private life, and he's not about to tell anyone what he's doing.

But if last month's U.S. Open is any indication, there are cracks in the armor. At Shinnecock Hills, Woods feuded publicly with Harmon even while his drives were going sideways, and he wasn't a factor on the weekend.

At the same time, his caddie became so annoyed at a photographer that he kicked his camera, then later went into the crowd and grabbed another one from an astonished spectator.

The boss doesn't like distractions, you know.

"I've always played my best when I've gone out and played—and stayed—focused on what I have to do and not worry about anything else," Woods said Tuesday.

Woods didn't say much else. He's become more taciturn than ever, insisting as always that everything is fine, while at the

same time refusing to be drawn into any specifics about his game or his swing.

Harmon speculated at the U.S. Open that his former student was in a "bit of denial" about everything, a statement that angered Woods mostly because it was made publicly.

Since then, Woods and Harmon have chatted and Woods said they patched up some of their differences. None of that chat concerned his golf swing, though, and Woods still stubbornly clings to the notion he can fix things himself.

Maybe he can. Maybe Woods knows something no one else knows and will find a way to do something he hasn't done since last October—win a stroke-play tournament.

Winning, of course, is the best way to quiet critics. If Woods can win his second British Open, people will quickly quit talking about his slump and return to talking about his chances of beating Jack Nicklaus' record of 18 major championship titles.

And maybe his caddie will get a clue and quit bullying people on his way around the course.

Golfer Tiger Woods, a winner of a record 15 ESPY awards, didn't win one for the first time since 1999. Bonds and Sorenstam rank second all-time with six such awards. Bonds won as best baseball player and Sorenstam as best female golfer.

George Weah, best known for his achievements on the soccer field, received the Arthur Ashe Courage Award for his humanitarian efforts in his war ravaged homeland of Liberia and other African countries.

The Ashe award is traditionally given to an athlete whose contributions transcend sports.

The ceremony was held at the Kodak Theater and will be televised Sunday by ESPN at 9 p.m. (EDT).

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

SPORTS TRANSACTIONS		PHILADELPHIA EAGLES-Signed G Adrien Clarke to a four-year contract and LB Jeremiah Trotter to a one-year contract.
<b>MLB</b>		<b>Olympics</b>
HOUSTON ASTROS-Fired Jimmy Williams, manager; Burt Hooton, pitching coach; and Harry Spilman, hitting coach. Named Phil Garner manager, Jim Hickey pitching coach, and Gary Gaetti hitting coach.		U.S. OLYMPIC MEN'S ROAD CYCLING TEAM-Announced Levi Leipheimer will replace Lance Armstrong.
<b>NBA</b>		<b>College</b>
ATLANTA HAWKS-Signed C Jason Collier.		AUBURN-Named Casey Dunn assistant baseball coach.
BOSTON CELTICS-Re-signed C Mark Blount to a six-year contract.		DARTMOUTH-Named Maribel Sanchez Souther women's cross country coach.
CHARLOTTE BOBCATS-Signed G Jason Hart and F Tamar Slay.		EVERGREEN STATE-Named Kim Farnsworth athletic trainer.
DALLAS MAVERICKS-Re-signed G Marquis Daniels to a five-year contract with a team option.		HOUSTON-Named John Severance women's tennis coach.
DETROIT PISTONS-Signed F Antonio McDyess to a four-year contract with a team option and G-F Carlos Delfino to a three-year contract with a team option.		N.J. CITY-Named Bridgette Quimpo softball coach.
GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS-Re-signed C Adonal Foyle to a six-year contract.		NORTH DAKOTA STATE-Named Eric Viney women's assistant volleyball coach.
LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS-Traded F-C Melvin Ely and G Eddie House to Charlotte for 2005 and 2006 second-round draft picks.		NORTHWESTERN-Announced men's junior basketball F Bernard Cote will transfer from Kentucky.
LOS ANGELES LAKERS-Traded C Shaquille O'Neal to Miami for F Lamar Odom, F Caron Butler, F-C Brian Grant and a future first-round draft pick.		OKLAHOMA-Named Bill Pink director of women's basketball operations.
MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES-Signed F Brian Cardinal to a six-year contract.		PALM BEACH ATLANTIC-Announced the resignation of Chris Bizol, men's and women's tennis coach, to take a position with Texas-Tyler.
MILWAUKEE BUCKS-Signed C Etan Thomas to a six-year offer sheet.		RHODE ISLAND-Announced the resignation of Boe Pearman, women's basketball coach.
PHILADELPHIA 76ERS-Signed F Brian Skinner to a multiyear contract.		SANTA CLARA-Named M. Felipe Montoro assistant cross country coach and Steve Drake women's assistant basketball coach.
PHOENIX SUNS-Signed G Quentin Richardson to a six-year offer sheet. Signed G Steve Nash to a six-year contract.		SETON HALL-Named Gerson Echeverry men's assistant soccer coach.
SAN ANTONIO SPURS-Re-signed F Bruce Bowen. Signed G Beno Udrih.		SKIDMORE-Named Darren Bennett women's basketball coach.
TORONTO RAPTORS-Signed G Rafer Alston to a five-year contract.		ST. FRANCIS, PA.-Named Wylie Crisanti women's lacrosse coach.
UTAH JAZZ-Signed F Carlos Boozer and C Mehmet Okur to six-year offer sheets. Re-signed G Carlos Arroyo to a four-year contract.		TULSA-Named Christy Connoyer softball coach.
<b>NFL</b>		WRIGHT STATE-Named Rob Cooper baseball coach.
GREEN BAY PACKERS-Voided the trade of DE Jamal Reynolds to Indianapolis after Reynolds failed his physical and waived him.		
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS-Released S Jason Perry.		

By The Associated Press

### LOCAL SCORES

RESTAURANT LEAGUE STANDINGS		
Angel Wings	3	0
Country House	3	1
Jollibee	3	1
Capricciosa	2	1
Keeraku	1	2
LSG Sky Chefs	0	3
El Segundo	0	4

## Armstrong, UConn pair win ESPY Awards

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Tour de France champion Lance Armstrong was a repeat winner as male athlete of the year, and Connecticut basketball stars Diana Taurasi and Emeka Okafor were also honored Wednesday night at the 12th annual ESPY Awards.

Armstrong is currently attempting to win the Tour de France for the sixth straight time.

Taurasi won the best college female athlete for the second straight year as well as the best female athlete, while Okafor was chosen the best male college athlete. The two led their respective teams to NCAA championships last spring.

For the first time, fans determined the winners in all 36 categories, including the

19 cross-cutter honors that pit athletes from different sports against each other. More than 10 1/2 million votes were cast between June 21 and July 9.

Armstrong was honored as the best male athlete over home run king Barry Bonds, quarterbacks Tom Brady and Peyton Manning, and NBA star Kevin Garnett.

Taurasi was selected over golfer Annika Sorenstam and tennis star Justine Henin-Hardenne in the female athlete of the year category.

The Detroit Pistons, who beat the Los Angeles Lakers in last month's NBA Finals, were picked as the best team over the Super Bowl champion New England Patriots, World Series-winning Florida Marlins, Stanley

Cup champion Tampa Bay Lightning and the UConn men's and women's basketball teams.

Detroit's Larry Brown won the best coach/manager award, and the Pistons were the winners in the new best upset category.

Among other winners were Cleveland Cavaliers star LeBron James, best breakthrough athlete; Masters champion Phil Mickelson, best male golfer and top championship performance; Manning, best NFL player; Garnett, best NBA player; Lauren Jackson, best WNBA player, Antonio Tarver, best boxer; Stewart Elliott, best jockey; Andy Roddick, best male tennis player, Gail Devers, female track and field, and Serena Williams, best female tennis player.

## Prosecutor asks to retry Jayson Williams

**FLEMINGTON, N.J. (AP)**—The prosecutor in the Jayson Williams manslaughter case wants to retry the former NBA star in Hunterdon County.

In papers filed with the trial judge on Wednesday, First Assistant Hunterdon County Prosecutor Steven Lember argued that the retrial should be moved to Hunterdon County, where limousine driver Costas Christofi was killed by a blast from a shotgun handled by Williams.

"Just as the perceived existence of pretrial publicity led the court to change venue to Somerset County, the even-more extensive trial publicity in Somerset County necessitates a return to Hunterdon County," Lember wrote.

Superior Court Judge Edward Coleman moved the first trial to Somerset County because of extensive pretrial publicity.

The 36-year-old Williams was acquitted in April of ag-

gravated manslaughter, aggravated assault and possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose, but was convicted on four counts related to his efforts to cover up the shooting.

The jury deadlocked on the remaining reckless manslaughter count and a mistrial was declared. Lember decided to retry the case on that one charge.

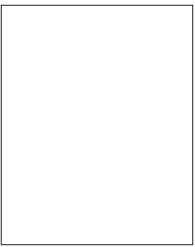
The retrial is scheduled to start Jan. 10 in Somerville.

Christofi died in 2002 in Williams' Alexandria Township mansion.

If the judge denies Lember's request for a change of venue, the prosecutor has asked that a jury be brought in from a neighboring county with demographics similar to Hunterdon.

Lember will ask Coleman to reconsider his decision not to allow testimony about Williams' prior gun use, including the alleged shooting of his dog.

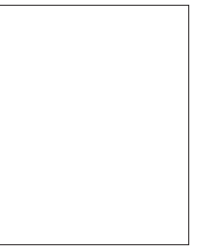




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